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Soviet Union

Vol III No 35 *21 February 1978*

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PrEx 7.10:FBIS-SOV-78-35

MAR 1978

FBIS-SOV-78-35
Tuesday
21 February 1978
Vol III No 35

DAILY REPORT

COMPLETED
ORIGINAL

SOVIET UNION

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Available for Distribution
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U.S.-USSR SALT DELEGATIONS MEET IN GENEVA 16 FEB

LD1613?2Y Moscow TASS in English 1345 GMT 16 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Geneva, February 16, TASS--Another meeting of the delegations of the USSR and the USA at the Soviet-American Strategic Offensive Arms Limitation Talks was held here today.

UN DOCUMENT CITED ON NEED FOR ALL-EMBRACING DISARMAMENT

LD200806Y Moscow TASS in English 0755 GMT 20 Feb 78 LD

[Text] New York, February 20, TASS--Preparations for and implementation by all countries of the all-embracing programme of disarmament, above all, nuclear disarmament, are necessary for eliminating the risk of a nuclear war, for ruling out the use of force, or threat of its use, and for the establishment of durable peace. Such is the main conclusion of the United Nations reports on the problems of curbing the arms race and achieving disarmament. The authors of the document point out to the governments, the United Nations and the international public opinion that it is necessary to solve cardinally the task of ending the arms race and deepening the process of the relaxation of international tensions. "It is important that detente should not be a process limited to certain geographic regions."

Besides that, constant build-up of armaments is incompatible with serious efforts to eliminate the risk of war and to consolidate trust among states which must be the basis of genuine detente, says the report.

The foremost task, the report stresses, lies in the liquidation of nuclear danger. And the only way of eliminating this danger is, undoubtedly, the adoption of effective measures in the sphere of nuclear disarmament, measures which would limit further development and ensure banning and liquidation of all nuclear weapons.

The document emphasises that the Soviet-American agreements in the sphere of strategic arms limitation helped to lessen the risk of an outbreak of a nuclear war.

The report assesses in the positive way the process of detente that was reached, as is known, mainly due to the persistent and steady efforts of the Soviet Union and other socialist states, of all peaceful forces.

The authors also stress that the final act of the European Security and Cooperation Conference ensures favourable conditions for continuation of the policy of detente.

MATVEYEV VIEWS CSCE PROGRESS, STATUS OF FINAL DOCUMENT

LD171145Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Feb 78 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[IZVESTIYA political observer V. Matveyev article: "The Belgrade Meeting: The Main Result"]

[Text] The Belgrade meeting of representatives of the countries which participated in the all-European conference has now been in session for 3.5 months. This is the maximum period envisaged for it in the schedule approved earlier. In a very short time, according to the procedure established, it must finish work.

The main thing this meeting was assembled for has been achieved: An in-depth exchange of opinions, focused on questions of consolidating security and developing the process of detente in Europe, has taken place at plenary sessions and in auxiliary working organs of the forum.

Work remains to be completed on editing a concluding document. There is a basis for this--and a good one. Agreement has been reached that the next such meeting will be convened in Madrid in 1980. A broad degree of agreement--a consensus--exists on how to further implement the provisions of the final act. This year, on Switzerland's proposal, a conference of experts from the 35 states which signed the Helsinki act will take place to examine and elaborate a universally acceptable method for the peaceful settlement of disputes. In June in Bonn, on the invitation of the FRG, a conference of experts will meet to prepare the "scientific forum" envisaged by the final act. On Malta's initiative, it is proposed to assemble a conference of experts to further mutually advantageous cooperation in the Mediterranean region in the areas of economics, science and culture.

Attaching primary significance to ending the arms race, strengthening military detente in Europe and completely eliminating the danger of conflict on the continent, the USSR and other socialist countries have put forward a series of important proposals meeting this aim.

During the Belgrade meeting, this whole group of problems, which is of key significance for the peaceful future of the continent, has been examined attentively, despite the sometimes strong opposition of the delegations from the United States and certain other NATO countries. To begin with, the American delegation tried to deny altogether this forum's authority to concern itself with those questions. Quite recently, its representative could find nothing better to do than to speak in praise of neutron weapons in front of the participants in the meeting.

Western delegations spoke profusely about the need for new measures of trust between states in the military sphere--right up to details which in fact smack more of intelligence and information measures than measures of trust.

What can do more to further the development of genuine trust between states in a region strewn with lethal arms than the reduction of the vast stockpiled armaments, including the most destructive! The Helsinki act provides for just such steps to insure lasting peace in Europe.

The U.S. delegation reacted with irritation to speeches in Belgrade condemning the plans to produce neutron weapons in the United States and deploy them in Western Europe. As if it was a question of exporting Christmas toys across the ocean. It is even asserted that the USSR is allegedly "interfering" in NATO's strategic plans. Some people want to hide from the Western public the fact that, in insisting on a complete end to work on the neutron bomb, the Soviet Union is prepared to adopt firm commitments on its part not to carry out such work.

This is an important fact, inasmuch as the whole platform of actions advanced by the USSR with the aim of strengthening military detente in Europe is based on mutual commitments by states without detriment to any of them, but furthering the strengthening of security.

Bearing in mind the complexity of the questions touched on, the delegations of the USSR and other socialist countries propose to include an item in the concluding document of the Belgrade meeting on the advisability of examining all questions of military detente, including measures of trust, within the framework of organs consisting of specialists and experts, with the aim of preparing appropriate resolutions for governments.

Of great practical importance for Europe are the initiatives on conducting interstate conferences on cooperation in the field of environmental protection, energy and transportation in which the CEE and also UNESCO, if one has in mind spheres of cooperation in the field of education, science and culture, are called upon to play an active role.

With the desire, good will and consideration of the considerable work done by the Belgrade forum, it would be possible even now to have agreed on the text of the concluding document. But artificial obstacles have been erected.

Despite the instructions carefully formulated in the final act on the tasks of the Belgrade meeting, determined by considerations of strengthening security and the development of cooperation in Europe and the development of the process of detente, the American and several other Western delegations would like to make it appear that the meeting was convened not to exchange opinions on these vital questions but for other motives alien to the constructive, positive aims. Such attempts to distort the sense of the useful work done by this forum will not become more convincing through the obsessive repetition of loud words about "human rights" by these Western delegations.

The blatantly utilitarian aim of the attempts to fan the campaign of fabrications against the domestic and foreign policy of the socialist countries under the flag of the "protection of human rights" was revealed by none other than General Haig, commander in chief of the NATO Armed Forces. According to him, the U.S. campaign under this banner contributed to "the improvement of the West's military defense." Thus, the above-mentioned campaign and the arms race, like Siamese twins, are the moral of General Haig and other initiators of such devices taken from the arsenal of the opponents of international cooperation.

The American press reported that before the resumption of the work of the Belgrade meeting in mid-January, A. Goldberg, head of the American delegation, "consulted" in the United States with representatives of the emigre riff-raff from the countries of Eastern Europe and also with "dissidents" thrown out of the USSR. This is where he draws his inspiration in trying to give the concluding document of the Belgrade meeting a content favorable to himself and to his "advisers."

The head of the U.S. delegation sees nothing reprehensible in the public praise of the Washington figures who recently "warned" West European countries against the participation of communists in the governments of these countries. Such American interference in the internal affairs of other countries is considered "natural" by Goldberg.

However much they fuss and however much they excel in the arena of the Belgrade meeting, nothing will come out of the commotion raised by the pseudozealots of "human rights." The delegations of the socialist countries declare that they are prepared, if necessary, to work round the clock in order to avoid dragging out the length of this forum any longer, and to achieve the elaboration of a concluding document which will reflect the main point, the reason the Belgrade meeting was convened and worked--strengthening security, developing cooperation and developing the process of detente on the European Continent.

U.S., NATO GROUPS ABSENT FROM BELGRADE CSCE SESSIONS

LD171552Y Moscow TASS in English 1537 GMT 17 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Belgrade, February 17, TASS--TASS correspondent Dmitriy Dymov Reports: The leaders of the delegations of the USA and of some of its NATO allies have been absent from the sittings of the editorial group of the Belgrade meeting for a week. Their representatives evade participation in the work of the groups in which a final document is being coordinated. Those delegations are refusing to register officially individual provisions which were earlier coordinated by all the participants. The non-constructive attitude of representatives of the USA and its fellow-thinkers from the very outset created a good deal of obstacles to a businesslike work of the Belgrade forum. It is they who sought to use the meeting for polemical, propagandist purposes and hindered the discussion of main European problems, the solution of which would move forward the process of detente and the normalization of the political climate in the continent. At the present stage, too, when time has come to complete the meeting, the USA and some of its allies continue blocking the elaboration of a final document, seeking to secure that socialist countries agree to their demands which in actual fact mean a direct revision of the final act which was signed by the heads of state and government in Helsinki, [and] mean an interference in the internal affairs of those countries.

Representatives of socialist countries from the very first day of the meeting are known to have actively advocated a furtherance of the course adopted in Helsinki towards stronger security and broader cooperation in Europe. They made important proposals aimed at curbing the arms race, and at expanding economic, cultural and other contacts between European countries. The Soviet Union is known to have suggested considering a draft document which, as admitted by many participants in the meeting, is a good basis for the creation of a positive final document.

This week, the delegation of the Soviet Union submitted a supplemented draft final document which includes all the proposals agreed upon during the work of the Belgrade meeting. The adoption of the document would promote realization of the recommendations of the Helsinki conference's final act.

But the constructive line of socialist countries obviously does not suit the opponents of detente. In recent days in the press of Western countries there appeared new articles and reports which apparently not without assistance from appropriate delegations comment in a distorted form on the work of the Belgrade forum.

WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

LD191825Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 19 Feb 78 LD

[International Observers Roundtable program conducted by Farid Seyful-Mulyukov, political observer of the Central Television and All-Union Radio, with Yevgeniy Grigoryev, deputy chief editor of PRAVDA and Vikentiy Matveyev, political observer of IZVESTIYA]

Disarmament, SALT

[Text] [Seyful-Mulyukov] Good day, comrades, We shall begin our conversation today with a discussion of the problem of disarmament. The article published the other day in PRAVDA, entitled "The Task of Limiting Strategic Arms: Prospects and Problems," has evoked a great response throughout the world. This article, it seems to me, expresses in a concentrated form the Soviet Union's position on the basic problems of disarmament, and above all on one of the most important of them, the problem of limiting strategic offensive weapons. I would ask Yevgeniy Yevgeniyevich Grigoryev, deputy chief editor of PRAVDA, to join the conversation. Over to you.

[Grigoryev] Yes, curbing the arms race and making the transition to disarmament is indeed the question of questions and the problem of problems in world politics today. As a matter of fact this is now recognized almost everywhere and by almost everyone in the world. Let us cite just the actions which are being carried out throughout the world these days against the American plans to produce neutron weapons and to deploy them on the territory of Western European countries in the North Atlantic bloc. There have been such actions in the United States itself. In the Netherlands a truly massive campaign of protest against neutron weapons is continuing: The number of signatures collected for the relevant petition has already exceeded 800 thousand. In the Federal Republic of Germany over 3 million trade union members have appealed not to allow the deployment of neutron weapons on the country's territory.

There is also something else which should not be omitted: Never before have there been so many specific businesslike talks on the limitation of the arms race. Unfortunately, one cannot yet point to any radical advances in this matter which is of vital importance to the peoples of the world. Moreover, it is worrisome that the arms race, which is inspired by imperialist circles, is becoming increasingly large-scale and is swallowing up more and more material resources and funds.

Recently the United Nations organization published a report devoted to the question of the economic and social consequences of disarmament. According to this report, 20 million people are currently engaged in armed forces around the world. And if one includes the industries connected with military expenditure, then the sphere of material preparations for war embraces about 50 thousand people in all: This is, after all, as large as the population of a whole major country. According to the report's data, $350 billion are now being spent on the arms race and military preparations.

[Seyful-Mulyukov] But Yevgeniy Yevgeniyevich, this figure is already out of date. Brandt, the chairman of the FRG Social Democratic Party, speaking the other day at a meeting of the Bureau of the Socialist International in Hamburg, mentioned $400 billion being spent on the arms race.

[Grigoryev] Yes, this is monstrous wastefulness. But this is not the main thing. The main thing is the colossal danger which is linked with the continuation of the arms race for it is fraught with the danger of a nuclear catastrophe.

The other day one American paper recalled that nuclear war can begin accidentally, or as a result of the gradual escalation of a conventional military or political conflict. In these conditions the Soviet-American talks on the limitation of strategic arms are all the more significant. No one has any doubt that the successful working out of a second agreement in this field would be of fundamental significance for progress in many other directions of work on curbing the arms race.

[Matveyev] In these talks there is both a positive and negative experience. In what sense? The point is that the whole history of the talks on strategic arms limitation, from 1969 up to the present day, abounds with numerous attempts by the opponents of detente in the United States to put a wrench in the works of such talks, using them to gain unilateral advantages for America over our country. A while ago in the United States a book by the American author Newhouse came out entitled "Cold Dawn." It follows in detail the progress of the first stage of these talks, which culminated in the signing in May, 1972, of the well-known agreements between our country and the United States. Being close to official circles in Washington, the author of course would have liked to present the American position in a favorable light but he could not silently pass over the facts which testify to the persistent attempts by the Pentagon and certain other official departments in Washington to win from the Soviet Union, during this first stage of the talks, concessions which would have given the United States an advantageous military position.

Considerable difficulties were encountered during the discussion of the agreement on the question of limitation of antimissile defenses. The firm, principled position of our country made it possible to overcome these difficulties and to achieve just agreements which reduced the danger of a nuclear conflict and restrained the development of the nuclear arms spiral. This experience and these lessons should be remembered now that the individuals and circles in America who are trying to instill in the American public the idea that, allegedly, it is possible to win from our country, as they say, agreements which are of benefit to the United States but are not of the same value to us and to put pressure on our side, have become more active.

[Grigoryev] You, Vikentiy Aleksandrovich, have talked about the history of the talks. But the present stage is not easy, either. Considerable efforts have been necessary to return the talks to the main trends which were jointly defined in Vladivostok and made more specific during the consequent discussions. This has been possible above all by dint of the consistent and constructive line of the Soviet Union and also of the elements of flexibility and realism which have been displayed by the American side. As a result of this last autumn it was possible, to a certain extent, to move forward, and it is well known that it became possible, for example, to get as far as resolving a question such as that of long-range cruise missiles. The sides agreed that such [cruise] missiles as the air-to-ground type, with a range of 600 to 2,500 km, should also be limited. It was agreed to equate heavy bombers equipped with such [cruise] missiles with strategic missiles with multiple independently-targetable warheads. Long-range cruise missiles are subject to a ban.

[Seyful-Mulyukov] It must be noted that during the Soviet-American talks a number of other questions were also agreed on. This has made it possible to think that a basically technical task remains: to formulate a solution with the corresponding treaty form.

[Grigoryev] Yes, moreover, both sides have stated more than once that they fully intend to bring the work on a new agreement to a successful conclusion. Such statements have been made in particular at various levels in Washington. It is a matter specifically of a treaty valid until 1985, a 3-year protocol on certain temporary measures which are an integral part of that treaty and also a possible joint statement concerning the basic directions of future talks on new measures in the field of limitation, and then reduction, of strategic arms. This, as we can see, is a big and important matter, and it would seem that grounds have appeared for the international public to hope that the green light will at last be given to such important tasks.

But recently we have been observing more and more facts which show that such a development is opposed by very influential forces in the United States. These forces are connected with the military-industrial complex and with the most belligerent circles of the Pentagon. They are striving to impede and as far as possible to undermine the accord on strategic arms limitation. We know that these circles' methods and ways are not distinguished by their novelty. They lay stress mainly on the propagandist thesis of the so-called Soviet threat. This myth is so hackneyed that from time to time even the American bourgeois press admits the groundlessness of such assertions. The other day, for example, the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR said that--and I quote--The USSR's conduct over the past 60 years testifies to its steadfast unwillingness to resort to war and this is evidence of the Soviet country's true love of peace. Nevertheless, the opponents of detente return again and again to insinuations and false propaganda. Under this cover they are constantly striving for an increase in expenditure on the arms race.

In our times it is extremely unwise to hope to gain unilateral military advantages. It is well known that any action, including rearmament, immediately causes a counteraction. The principle of equality and equal security is the only basis possible for an agreement. This is dictated both by the nature of modern weapons and by the objectively existing balance of strategic forces between the Soviet Union and the United States of America.

[Matveyev] Yevgeniy Yevgeniyevich, in connection with what you have just said I would like to dwell briefly on the reaction of a certain section of the American press to the aforementioned PRAVDA editorial article in particular. It is a question of the 15 February press conference at the State Department. At that press conference some of the journalists present expressed puzzlement over why such a detailed article had appeared in the Soviet press. It was asked in particular whether this did not run counter to the Soviet-American understanding on holding talks behind closed doors. Well, this is a strange posing of the issue in the light of what is occurring in the United States. Not a day passes there without somebody in Congress, in the press or on television, expressing every kind of speculation and fabrication on the progress of these Soviet-American talks and particularly on the stance of our country. In a number of cases this stance is misinterpreted and distorted. And it is not surprising that in replying to the aforementioned question by some American journalists at the press conference the State Department spokesman turned aside the assertion as invalid and pointed out that he did not see anything in the given PRAVDA article which would or could cause any objections.

[Grigoryev] In general, Vikentiy Aleksandrovich do you not think that it would be a very good thing for the American and world publics to realize clearly that thes circles in the United States which are attempting to hamper the conclusion of a new Soviet-American agreement on the limitation of strategic armaments are acting, one might say, directly against the interests of security and peace and are moreover leading matters to a fresh upturn in the race in the most dangerous means of war.

And this, we all realize, can have only one outcome: a sharp intensification of the danger of a nuclear missile catastrophe.

The peoples of the world are well aware that the Soviet Union is endeavoring to and is doing everything in its power not to permit such a turn of events. What is more, it is striving to do everything it can to secure the speediest conclusion of a new agreement on the limitation of strategic offensive armaments, which would be of great importance for the interests of universal peace and for the fates of present and future generations. One would like the United States also to adopt an equally serious attitude on this most important task.

West European Politics

[Seyful-Mulyukov] We shall now move on to the consideration of another problem. Here at the roundtable we have already considered and described in the appropriate fashion the gross attempts by official Washington circles to interfere in the internal affairs of a number of West European countries by means of so-called warnings against the participation of communists in the governments of these countries. Vikentiy Aleksandrovich, could you comment on what is most important, interesting and characteristic at the present time in the development of the situation in Western Europe.

[Matveyev] If one takes this extensive region as a whole, the picture is, of course, fairly variegated and not uniform. There is a complex and acute situation in Portugal. Soares, the leader of the Socialists, has formed a new government with the participation of conservative bourgeois parties. The Lisbon correspondent of the American Washington POST writes that the new government may become the penultimate one before the establishment in the country of a rightwing military dictatorship. This threat is a real one and the broad sections of the working people and their vanguard, the Portuguese communists, are rallying together against it.

But, of course, the most fixed attention is attracted by the situation in France and Italy--countries which were recently the object of such American pressure. France is on the eve of routine parliamentary elections. This Monday the registration of candidates for the elections commences. After its plenum, which was held on 15 February, the Central Committee of the French Communist Party has called upon the country's communists to achieve the best results at the elections. The latest public opinion poll in France shows that over 50 percent of those polled intend to vote for representatives of the leftwing forces, that is for the communists and the socialists. Under these circumstances big capital and its political emisarries are stepping up their anti-communist campaign, not only via the mass information media but also with recourse to other techniques calculated to sow alarm and panic and intimidate the population with some sort of consequences for finances and the economy if the leftwing forces win.

[Seyful-Mulyukov] Many Western political observers are now speculating over whether or not the communists and socialists in France will manage to restore their broken unity, which would be an important condition for their success at the elections. What is the state of affairs in this regard?

[Matveyev] On 7 February the leadership of the French Communist Party appealed again to Mitterrand, the leader of the socialists, for an alliance, but the Socialist Party is stubbornly continuing to refuse to hold talks with the communists, despite a growing mood in its ranks in favor of unity of leftwing forces and in favor of a joint program in accordance with the interests of the masses of the working people.

What is more, the leadership of the Socialist Party is hinting at the possibility of cooperating with the bourgeois parties. It obviously does not wish to tie its hands, hoping by maneuvers to pave the way to participation in a new government. The very near future will show what these tactics produce.

In any event one cannot say that these tactics are based on pricniple.

Now Italy. American interference in its internal affairs under a flag of anticommunism has undoubtedly even further complicated the situation in the country and encouraged terrorist activity by extremist neofascist groups. The leadership of the Italian Communist Party is not now insisting on the obligatory participation of its representatives in the government but is as fully determined as before to achieve a most active participation in the country's political and economic life. In this it has the support of the broad sections of the population.

[Grigoryev] There is a report from Brussels which is evidence of the fact that the NATO headquarters are not merely showing heightened interest in the development of events in Italy but are setting in motion levers exerting the same sort of pressure, as Washington recently had resort to, in order to prevent a shift to the left in that country. You, Vikentiy Aleksandrovich, were speaking about the political and other pressure being put by Washington on a number of Western European capitals. I think one can speak of yet another direction of American pressure on its allies and partners, namely, the economic and financial pressure. It is well known that Western European countries are suffering seriously from the economic and financial crisis. So far, compared with many other Common Market countries, the FRG--and in this respect the domestic political code of Schmidt's government is of no little importance--has a fairly stable position in the world capitalist market. Now the United States, in fact, is demanding that its most powerful Western European economic ally, so to speak, give up part of its profits in favor of the American monopolies.

A theory has been even concocted--that of the locomotive. Its implication is that countries like the FRG or Japan should adopt special measures to revive their economies in the short-term and should relieve the general economic situation by their capital investments on the Western markets and thereby, help to pull the sticking waggons of American, British and other economies. And that is the mission with which, as a matter of fact, Blumenthal turned up in Bonn. Since the FRG economics minister, Lambsdorff, had previously been to the United States, this was to new discussion: It was a continuation of the discussion of the same theme that had already been repeatedly discussed by Bonn and Washington. Blumenthal demanded that Bonn take new measures to revive the economy in the short-term and--among other things--take new measures to support the falling dollar rate. Bonn rejects this: The entire press reports that, it rejects it from fear of an intensification of inflation at home, of further price rises. In brief, they are completely unwilling to put their interests second to those of their American uncle.

Middle East

[Seyful-mulyukov] And now I would like to draw our listeners' attention to the events taking place in the Near East. Both within and without the Arab world, Egyptian President as-Sadat's trip to the United States and several European states is now being analyzed in the light of the problem of a Near East settlement and of the general situation in the region.

This year's second As-Sadat-Carter meeting has yet again confirmed the strategic aims and tactical methods of American policy in the region.

On the one hand, Washington is doing all it can to strengthen Israel's military and political positions and support its expansionist plans vis-a-vis the Arab countries, while on the other, it is trying to extract a maximum of profit from Cairo's capitulationist policy. The separate Egyptian-Israeli negotiations, which have at present virtually collapsed, have nontheless been quite a handy form for Washington to defend its own interests in the Near East. That is precisely why, as the Camp David talks showed, the American administration intends to pursue further its course toward separate Egyptian-Israeli talks, and to ignore the solution of the key problems of Near East settlement.

[Matveyev] A tight curtain of secrecy was drawn around the meeting, but it emerges from both White House statements and American press reports that Washington was trying to direct As-Sadat down the track. The Americans need to moderate his illusions and make him more obliging as regards concessions--big concessions--to Israel.

[Seyful-Mulyukov] As subseqent events have shown, Tel Aviv has hardened its stance even more on all issues connected with a Near East settlement--including that of keeping control over the illegal Israeli settlements on the Sinai Peninsula. For instance, even to the timid American criticism that the settlements were against international law, Israel responded with a ferocious campaign in defense of its plans. The Israeli leaders even threatened to revise the proposals they had made during the separate negotiations in Cairo. Israeli Prime Minister Begin is going to Washington in early March for talks with President Carter.

[Grigoryev] I would like to draw your attention to the American accent in this Near East game. After As-Sadat's visit to Washington, the United States announced that it had decided to sell Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia a big batch of warplanes totalling some $5 billion. According to U.S. Secretary of State Vance, the aircraft sales would directly serve American aims in the Near East.

[Seyful-Mulyukov] Well, first of all in Washington's decisions to sell arms--to sell more arms--to the Near East, it is noticeable that most of the modern arms are meant to reinforce the Israeli war machine. Under this decision, Israel is to get 90 modern warplanes, including F-15 and F-16 fighterbombers.

[Matveyev] This year it will get a total of almost $2 billion in military aid from the United States.

[Seyful-Mulyukov] On the other hand the Americans have--and for the first time--decided to supply warplanes to Egypt and to sell the Saudi Army weapons. The Arab countries are wondering why. Well, the primary reason is to reinforce America's positions with the reactionary Arab regimes--and on the other hand, to create a semblance of America having a blanced Near East policy, thus justifying the massive arming of the Israeli Army. Commenting on this decision by Washington, the Syrian AL-BA'TH newspaper wrote that it was not to fight Israeli aggression that American arms were being supplied to Egypt: As-Sadat needed the American arms to crush patriotic forces within his own country, and also to defend--together with Israel and the United States--the interests of imperialism and reaction in the Arab east and on the continent of Africa.

These days much of the Arab and world public is paying great attention to the Soviet leaders' meetings and talks with leaders of several progressive Arab countries. As you know, in early February Soviet-South Yemeni talks were held in Moscow; last week, there were also Soviet-Libyan talks in Moscow in connection with the official visit to our country by Jallud, a member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

In the second half of February, President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, will come to Moscow on an official visit of friendship at the head of a Party and Government delegation. During Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's meeting with 'Abd as-Salam Jallud on 15 February, special attention was paid to discussing the Near East situation. It was pointed out during the meeting that the Egyptian leadership's separate negotiations with Israel were inflicting serious damage on the interests of the Arab peoples in their struggle to liquidate the consequences of Israeli aggression, and were impeding the inauguration of a lasting and just peace in the Near East. Jallud informed Leonid Ilich Brezhnev of the decisions of the recent Algiers conference of the leaders of Libya and several other Arab countries, and also of the PLO. As we know, that conference unlike the decisions of the previous Tripoli conference, outline specific measures to counteract the Egyptian leadership's capitulationist course and to rally the ranks of the progressive Arab states. During both the Soviet-South Yemeni talks and the Soviet-Libyan talks, the situation in the Horn of Africa was examined.

Horn of Africa

[Grigoryev] The facts concerning the origin of that conflict are quite widely known. It stems from the Somali leaders' territorial claims against neighboring Ethiopia. Last July, the Somali Army, with tank and air force backing, invaded the southeastern part of Ethiopia, the Ogaden. This intervention was not only not condemned by the West but everything was done to encourage and support it in pursuit of the West's own selfish aims of weakening revolutionary Ethiopia and of establishing NATO's military strategic control over the Horn of Africa under this veiled aegis, so to speak.

[Seyful-Mulyukov] But now that the Ethiopian Army is rebuffing the Somali forces and has unleashed a successful counteroffensive in Ogaden, the NATO capitals have sounded the alarm. Blatant threats have been uttered against Ethiopia, although their leaders have clearly said that their aim is to free their own territory and to drive out the aggressors and they do not intend to carry the war beyond their borders. A very real crusade is being organized against revolutionary Ethiopia by imperialist and reactionary forces. Until recently, arms from the NATO countries are known to have been sent to Somalia via the intermediary of the reactionary Arab regimes. It is now urgently planned to supply Somalia with the latest weapons directly from American military bases in West Germany.

Thus the prolongation of the armed conflict in the Horn of Africa serves the interests of imperialism and reaction. We are waging a defensive war the only aim of which is to drive the aggressors out of our land, said the chairman of Ethiopia's Provisional Military Administrative Council, Megistu Haile Mariam. The conditions for settling the present armed conflict in the Horn of Africa, he emphasized, must be the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Somali forces from Ethiopian territory and the strict observance of the principle of noninterference in each others' internal affairs. This just position is supported by all who are interested in the speediest possible liquidation of this dangerous hotbed of tension in East Africa.

On that we end our broadcast. Thank you for listening, and until our next meeting.

UNITED STATES

HALDEMAN CHARGE ON USSR'S 1969 POLICY TOWARD PRC REFUTED

LD171700Y Moscow TASS in English 1426 GMT 17 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 17, TASS--The New York TIMES has published excerpts from the book of one of the main figures in the so-called Watergate affair, former presidential assistant H. Haldeman, who was convicted by the American court to a term of up to eight years.

At present Haldeman has engaged in the publication of his memoirs containing provocative inventions about the Soviet Union's policy vis-a-vis the PRC. He writes that the Soviet Union allegedly turned to the USA several times in 1969 with a proposal to launch a joint nuclear attack against China. Haldeman's nonsensical statements are a lie from beginning to end and pursue provocative and only provocative aims.

Presidential national security adviser H. Kissinger and Secretary of State W. Rogers, who then led the foreign policy of the United States, most resolutely refuted these inventions. There has been nothing of the kind, said Rogers. Nevertheless some American newspapers continue spreading the fabrication.

In reality, any Soviet proposal of this kind was out of the question as it would run counter to the foreign policy of the USSR directed at the establishment and development of normal interstate relations with all countries, including the PRC. Suffice it to recall in this connection Leonid Brezhnev's statement that beginning from 1969 the USSR has repeatedly proposed China that explicit, firm and permanent commitments be taken excluding the attack by one country against another. It is also known that the Soviet Union proposed China to conclude a special treaty on the non-use of force which would provide for the renunciation of use against each other of armed forces with the use of any types of weapons, including conventional, missile and nuclear ones.

TASS Statement

LD191040Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1009 GMT 19 Feb 78 LD

["TASS statement"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 19 February, TASS--As already reported, in the United States a book has been published by H. Haldeman--a former assistant to President R. Nixon of the United States--which contains slanderous allegations that in 1969 the Soviet Union proposed to the United States that a joint nuclear strike be made against China, and that it later intended to strike alone but, the story goes, was prevented by the United States. H. Haldeman's fabrications were immediately rebutted by the then presidential assistant for national security, H. Kissinger, and former U.S. Secretary of State W. Rogers. The fact that these allegations come from a person now under sentence of imprisonment for perjury and the fact that these allegations have been rebutted by persons then holding responsible posts in the U.S. administration would seem to exhaust the issue. However, the American press, in its hunger for doubtful sensations, is continuing its propaganda hullaballoo over H. Haldeman's inventions.

TASS is authorized to state that H. Haldeman's allegations are pure fabrication from start to finish, and that only those who pursue the aims of provocation, reckoning neither with the real facts nor simply with common sense, can take up and disseminate these ill-intentioned fabrications.

MATERIAL ON U.S.-SOVIET TALKS FOR SALT II ACCORD

Reasons for 'Slow Progress'

LD190410Y Moscow in English to North America 2230 GMT 18 Feb 78 LD

["Moscow Viewpoint" by Valentin Zorin, political observer]

[Text] Some time ago I returned from a tour of the United States. I've already spoken about some of my impressions. Here's what I'd like to say today:

I've been getting many letters from Soviet people who ask for an explanation for the very slow and difficult progress at the Soviet-American talks about the SALT II agreement. When I was staying in Washington I put this question to people who have a good idea about the policy-making machinery in the American capital. Their answers were different but it's a revealing fact that almost all the people I talked to made a point of mentioning the stand of the United States Congress in one way or another. They said that the Carter administration would have found a way to settle the still-unresolved technicalities that are being discussed in Geneva a long time ago, were it certain that the Senate would ratify the agreement to be signed by Soviet and American government representatives.

The people I talked to made an effort to convince me of the administrations good will, and they emphasized that the administration is in a difficult position because of the stand taken by the lawmakers. They often referred to the example of the Panama Canal treaty, to ratify which government leaders have been making vigorous efforts for many months now.

Since there was a reference to the Senate's stand in almost all the conversations' I had earlier this month in Washington and it was made to justify the go-slow policy of the American side at the Geneva talks, I'd like to speak about this problem now. Of course it's not my business to discuss the subtle points of the relationship between the lawmakers and the executive in the United States, but you will agree that this is your problem, not ours. There's been quite a definite procedure established over the centuries in relations between states, when governments that receive power from their peoples in a certain manner act on behalf of each state. In each country there are an established order and customs. The United States as well as the Soviet Union have their own parliaments, and there is a public opinion in each of them. It's natural that in their activities the governments take into account many factors of the domestic political scene, including the stand of the lawmakers and the sentiments of the public as well as the foreign policy interests of their states. But if some particular government does not have sufficient support inside its country how can it effectively carry out the tasks its own people have entrusted it with? After all, the Soviet side could raise a similar issue, since it's an open secret that there are people in the Soviet Union who are very much on their guard about the American policy. To bring out this point I could quote numerous letters from Soviet listeners in my mail.

All the same, relying on very broad support of the public, enjoying full trust of the people, the Soviet Government is taking constructive steps to improve relations with the United States, to stop the arms race, and so I think there's every right to count on a similar approach to these issues from Washington. Otherwise, any Soviet-American dialog would lose a real basis. If President Carter's administration believes it has the mandate of the American people, it's hardly justifiable to make a reference to internal political divisions.

Let's try to look at it from another angle. Hardly anyone can seriously claim that the United States President and his ministers are less concerned about insuring national security than any of the 100 American senators. If, in these conditions, they regard it important and necessary to conclude a SALT II agreement, then why should the opinion of one or several senators bloc this major undertaking? The more so that the United States and the American people are interested as much objectively as the Soviet people in putting an end to the strategic arms race. I think there is no need to elaborate on this obvious truth. Some American congressmen are putting spokes in the wheel of such agreements, apparently to try to challenge their own country, their own people, not the Soviet Union.

American official propanganda is fond of talking at length about American democracy and passes it off for a model other nations should follow. But what sort of democracy is it when individual legislators deprive the President elected by a national vote of a chance to exercise policies he believes should be exercised? And what is more, such legislators act against the interests of their own people and they place the selfish interests of some groups they are linked with above the people's interests.

In this connection I'd like to quote a highly revealing finding that we made public in the United States a few days ago. According to the latest Harris poll, a considerable majority of Americans seriously doubt that members of the United States Congress adhere to moral standards in their work or are championing the interests of the American voters instead of those of some particular groupings. According to this poll more than two-thirds of Americans believe Congress should reflect more than it does today the position of the ordinary voters and not that of some powerful groups, and 58 percent of the people polled believe it's urgent for the members of Congress to observe the code of ethics. The poll revealed such an opinion apparently because broad sections of the voters have serious doubts about the activities of some representatives and senators.

Political realities are political realities. One can realize that the Washington leaders have their problems but it's also necessary to realize another thing--these are their problems. Making a reference to these problems is unjustifiable in international relations. It's at least naive to think that by referring to internal political difficulties it's possible to make the Soviet Union give up what it believes should be done to insure its national security or to force it to accept an agreement that would give advantages to one side. We proceed from an assumption that a stop to the ever-new rounds in the arms race is equally in the interests of the United States and the Soviet Union. People who would like to disregard this obvious fact will take upon themselves grave responsibility before their own people.

U.S. Figures Cited

LD171459Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Feb 78 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[Correspondent M. Sturua report: "Act Persistently and Stubbornly"]

[Text] Washington--All the leading American newspapers have published items devoted to the Soviet position regarding the prospects and problems of strategic arms limitation. The CHRISTAIN SCIENCE MONITOR singles out in particular the warnings made to the U.S. circles which, in their search for one-sided advantages, are prepared to turn the future agreement into a useless piece of paper.

Our correspondent telephoned eminent representatives of the American public in New York and California. In New York the telephone was answered by Richard Morford, executive director of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, and in the Californian town of Claremont by Prof Fred Neal, vice president of "The American Committee for East-West Concord."

"We greeted the detailed exposition of the Soviet position with deep satisfaction," R. Morford said. "Its thrust is consonant with the activity of our council, which proclaimed 1978 a year of struggle for the relaxation of international tension. And it is hard to overestimate the importance of reaching an understanding on strategic arms limitation for the consolidation and development of detente. Such an agreement would be a good foundation for the transition from strategic arms limitation to their gradual reduction. The Soviet Union's position is real and enterprising. It will help to overcome the impasse at the talks."

R. Morford cited Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's words on the danger which the arms race conceals for the cause of peace.

In the face of the intrigues of supporters of the arms race and in an atmosphere of military psychosis whipped up by them, Prof F. Neal said, it is essential for those forces in America who are in favor of reaching agreements on strategic arms limitation to act even more persistently and stubbornly. Prof F. Neal expressed complete agreement with the principle of equality and security in the approach to the solution of the problem of strategic arms limitation and stressed that the implementation of this principle would promote a further improvement in Soviet-American relations as a whole.

CARTER 17 FEB RHODE ISLAND PRESS CONFERENCE REPORTED

LD181315Y Moscow TASS in English 1311 GMT 18 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Washington, February 18, TASS--President Carter of the United States held a press conference in Cranston, Rhode Island, to uphold his decision to sell a large consignment of war planes to Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, which was made contrary to the previous assurances of the U.S. administration to limit deliveries of U.S.-made armaments into explosive areas. The President described Israel, the Arab Republic of Egypt and Saudi Arabia as staunch allies and friends of the United States.

President Carter emphasized, however, that F-5E planes that the United States agreed to deliver to Egypt are not nearly as advanced as the F-15 and F-16 planes supplied to Israel and intimated that they were more suited for hostilities not against Israel but against other countries of the Middle East and Africa. The President also made it plain that the promise to supply U.S. planes to Egypt was a kind of reward to As-Sadat for having broken off friendly relations with the Soviet Union. He said it is a good thing that such countries as Egypt look to the United States instead of turning to the Soviet Union the way they did in the past.

The President expressed the confidence that the Congress will go along with his decision on sales of planes to all the three countries despite the fact that the pro-Israeli circles in the Congress strongly declare against deliveries of fighter planes to Egypt and particularly against supply of contemporary fighter bombers to Saudi Arabia.

Touching upon the internal problems of the United States, Carter actually made an ultimatum to striking American miners, demanding that they should achieve an agreement with the industrialists soon and end the strike that lasts for 74 days. He said that the negotiations with the miners must not be allowed to drag out for another week. The President of the United States threatened that if the agreement is not achieved soon he would take other, more decisive measures.

The north-eastern states which Carter is now touring are in an economic plight which has been aggravated still more by the recent snowstorms. But the President could not give any specific promises about economic relief to these areas and limited himself to statements about the need of measures to stimulate economy, to decrease the inflation rate, etc.

Additional Report

LD202254Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 20 Feb 78 LD

[Text] At a press conference last Friday, President Carter described Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia as the closest allies and the sincerest friends of the United States. Thus the aggressors, who are holding on to the Egyptian and other Arab territories occupied in 1967 and who deny the Palestinian people their legitimate rights, are placed on the same level with Egypt, which Washington now views very favorably. The American press explains openly the reasons for this favorable attention. Writing about the decision of the Carter administration to offer Egypt warplanes, the Washington POST said, without detours and evasions, that this decision is intended to thank As-Sadat for his anti-Soviet policy. Other American papers add that this attention of Washington was bound to encourage Cairo to play the role of the gendarme in Africa to combat the progressive forces in the continent. Moreover, it is also intended to drive Cairo into making further concessions within the framework of the separate talks.

Meanwhile one cannot but note that Washington's favorable attention to the Egyptian president does not yield to Cairo any tangible practical advantages. Despite the pressure by the Egyptian president, the Carter administration refuses to exercise any pressure on its Israeli friend with regard to basic issues for solving the Middle East crisis.

COMMITTEE HEARS 'JUSTIFICATION' OF 'ENORMOUS' PENTAGON REQUEST

LD171140Y Moscow TASS in English 1127 GMT 17 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Washington, February 17, TASS--The United States is entering a new stage in the arms race. This has been actually admitted on Wednesday at the House Armed Services Committee by Director of Defense Research and Engineering of the U.S. Defense Department William Perry. He tried to justify the enormous appropriations requested by the Pentagon for research, development and manufacture of new arms and military equipment in the fiscal year of 1979 to the tune of 44,400 million dollars.

The lion's share of this sum is to be spent on developing new kinds of weapons using the latest achievements in the field of science and technology such as laser guiding systems, cluster bombs, and shells using kinetic energy, etc. It is planned to spend for these purposes seven per cent more funds in 1979 than in the preceding year.

With the aim of building up the might of the NATO military machine, the Pentagon insists on appropriating "sufficient" funds to enhance the combat readiness of the American troops stationed in Western Europe. William Perry said that the USA will carry out research and development in "close cooperation" with its NATO partners.

The Pentagon's budget for the fiscal year of 1979 also provides for the appropriation of 227 million dollars on the development of most sophisticated anti-missile defence systems.

Work is also envisaged to develop some kinds of outer space weapons and perfect many already existing systems.

Commenting on the Pentagon's huge appetites in the field of research, development and manufacture of new weapons in the coming fiscal year, the U.S. press notes that the USA has clearly taken course for widening the scale of the arms race.

EMIGRE WIFE OF SHCHARANSKIY 'DOES NOT EXIST'

LD201447Y Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Feb 78 p 9 LD

[TASS correspondent report: "The Adventuress on Stage"]

[Text] Washington--and now here is Mrs Shcharanskiy.

There is applause in the hall, movie cameras whirr and journalists grab for their notebooks. The latest anti-Soviet spectacle is starting, and the chief heroine is an Israeli citizen who calls hereself Avital Shcharanskaya. Just a few hours later reportage on this "event" will fill the airwaves and the pages of the American press.

To give a greater effect to such propaganda shows, professional anti-Soviets from various Zionist centers resort to the use of local and visiting "luminaries." Thus, on the stage along with the guests from Tel Aviv there appear from time to time the wife of the Israeli ambassador to the United States, representatives of anti-Soviet emigre organizations, the not unknown Senator-demagogue Moynihan and official White House Spokesmen. Big headlines in the newspapers are guaranteed: The Soviet Union is besmirched yet again.

The tour of the visiting "star," in the judgement of its organizers, is proceeding successfully. Literally not a day passes in which she does not make appeals from the platform of some kind of American organization or association. Studied phrases come out smoothly. They concern the "violation of human rights" in the Soviet Union, "corroborated" by the touching story of her forced separation from her passionately beloved husband, Anatoliy Shcharanskiy, who is currently being investigated for violating the USSR criminal code.

By skillfully playing on such sensitive strings as love and the family she is striving to win the sympathies of her audience in demanding help to reunite herself with her "other half." And the public often takes her story at face value.

Thus, after one of her appearances, for instance, the leaders of U.S. Protestant, Catholic and Jewish communities, reduced to tears, made an emotional appeal to the Soviet Government demanding the release of Anatoliy Shcharanskiy so he "could be reunited with his wife."

All this would possibly be touching if only it corresponded with reality. Let us now turn to the facts.

The facts prove that Avital Shcharanskaya does not really exist. One Natalya Shtiglits, who was born in 1950 and emigrated from the USSR to Israel on 5 July 1973, goes under that name. It is remarkable that in the aforesaid period, when the Shcharanskiy family was supposedly "split up," Anatoliy was living in Moscow with Lidiya Voronina, who was born in 1947 and had no connection at all with N. Shtiglits.

The truth is that, having discovered via common acquaintances that N. Shtiglits had obtained an exit visa to Israel, A. Shcharanskiy immediately attempted to arrange a "religious marriage" with her in order to obtain an exit visa for himself. Then, however, for various reasons A. Shcharanskiy refused to register his marriage at the synagogue and thus, according to both Jewish custom and Soviet laws, it did not take place.

The inconsistency of the claims concerning the wedding which is supposed to have taken place is completely obvious if it is borne in mind that A. Shcharanskiy, when applying for an exit visa, gave as her reasons a desire to visit Lyubov Yershkovich, his sister-in-law who is a student at Tel Aviv University. He indicated them in a statement written in his own hand and dated 23 July 1973. It is also interesting to note that in all subsequent official applications for a visa A. Shcharanskiy never made the slightest reference to the mythical marriage with Shtiglits, understanding the absurdity of any such references.

The question is, how to explain the widely publicized U.S. tour by "Avital Shcharanskaya" and company, whose plaintive appeals for "justice" and demands to restore her legal spouse are continuing to excite the imagination of some tender-hearted Americans. There can only be one answer to this: a regular anti-Soviet provocation based on lies and forgery.

P.S. We will cite another item of evidence exposing the alleged married state of N. Shtiglits. It concerns her parents, who are living in the Soviet Union. Discovering from foreign radio broadcasts that their daughter was suddenly referred to as A. Shcharanskiy's wife, they sent a letter to Senators Moynigan and Javits, requesting its publication. In the letter they expressed parental concern and indignation that certain circles in the United States and Israel had decided to use their daughter for their malicious ends. Shtiglits' father and mother stated that Nalalya is not the wife of Shcharanskiy and that while in the USSR she had never discussed with them the question of marriage or, specifically, of any intention to become his wife. Therefore, to involve her as "Shcharanskiy's wife" in the orbit of political falsifications is dishonest, to say the least.

HIJACKERS OF SOVIET PLANE 'PATRONIZED' BY U.S. OFFICIALS

LD182028Y Moscow TASS in English 2005 GMT 18 Feb 78 LD

["Sheltering the Killers"--TASS headline]

[Text] Washington, February 18, TASS--The official authorities of the United States continue to patronise the Brazinskas, Pranas and Algirdas, terrorists, who committed a grave crime in the territory of the Soviet Union eight years ago.

As is known, on October 15, 1970, the Brazinskas, upon using firearms hijacked an AN-24 passenger airliner on a flight from Batumi to Sukhumi, and forced the crew to land in Turkey. During the terrorist act the bandits killed the air hostess and heavily wounded the pilot and navigator.

It is also known that since August 1976 the Brazinskas have been taking refuge in the United States, evading justice with an obvious connivance of the authorities which virtually took under their protection the killers who are at large.

Despite the fact that the case of the Brazinskas is of a purely criminal nature, the U.S. Department of State agreed to consider their demand for "political asylum". Though the bandits did not have the slightest ground to contend for the role of "political figures", it took the State Department several months to take a decision on the matter. Only after protests on the part of the Soviet Government and under the pressure of the public, the U.S. State Department had to deny them political asylum. In so doing the State Department publicly admitted that the Brazinskas committed a serious non-political crime.

It would seem that the matter was settled and that the criminals would be turned over to justice. That was not the case. Asked by a TASS correspondent how the matters stood in the question of deportation of the Brazinskas to the Soviet Union, an official spokesman of the State Department said it is now under consideration by the U.S. immigration authorities, to which all subsequent inquiries should be addressed. A White House spokesman earlier took up a similar attitude. When a TASS correspondent addressed that question to the Immigration and Naturalisation Service, it turned out that the immigration authorities accuse the Brazinskas only of staying in the USA longer than was provided for by the transit visa issued to them in 1976, as if there had been no armed attack on the crew, the murder of the air hostess and the hijacking of a passenger airliner.

As a result of the manoeuvering of the U.S. authorities in the spirit of the cold war times, the act which falls under the category of international terrorism was deliberately reduced in the case of the Brazinskas to an insignificant violation of immigration legislation the maximum penalty for which can be a demand to leave the territory of the United States.

It is in place to recall in this connection that the Government of the USA repeatedly made public statements as to the necessity for resolute struggle against international terrorism and solemnly proclaimed that it would strive in that struggle for wider cooperation with all countries, irrespective of their political system, with the aim of preventing such acts and punishing those guilty.

A legitimate question arises: How do these official statements square with the unseemly attitude taken up by the U.S. authorities in the Brazinskas case, an attitude which not only fails to promote the struggle against international terrorism but actually encourages it?

NEVADA EXERCISES CULTIVATE UNFRIENDLY FEELINGS TOWARD USSR

LD171448Y Moscow in English to North America 0100 GMT 17 Feb 78 LD

[Vladislav Kozyakov commentary]

[Text] It goes without saying that armed forces in each country have to hold their exercises from time to time. It's a common practise. For example, earlier this month Soviet Army exercises took place in Belorussia. In accordance with confidence-building measures of the Helsinki final act, observers from the United States and some other countries were invited. They watched the training battles between the northerners and the southerners.

But if you examine the Pentagon exercises which are taking place in the Nevada desert you will easily see they are of a different character. They are aimed not only at professional military training; their main task is obviously to cultivate unfriendly feelings toward other countries, especially the Soviet Union and its people.

Here is what the NEWSWEEK magazine recently reported about the U.S. Air Force air combat maneuvers. I quote: The order for the attack came at 0330 one morning last week. Flying at 150 feet to confound enemy radar, the attack force roared over Soviet industrial sites and clouds of Russian T-62 tanks. As they approached the airfield antiaircraft fire spattered the sky, and Russian-marked planes howled out of the sunrise. Unquote.

After such excesses, NEWSWEEK magazine notes that it might have been the start of World War III except that the whole exercise took place in the Nevada desert.

You may say that it was not a typical case. Unfortunately it has become a permanent practice. The program known as "Operation Red Flag" was begun in 1975, and thousands of U.S. pilots have gone through it since then. And the program is going on. The other day the American magazine AVIATION WEEK AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY published another comprehensive report of the Pentagon maneuvers at the Air Base Nellis. The magazine pointed out that such maneuvers will be even further expanded in the nearest future. They will take place in many other regions of the United States and also at some American air bases abroad.

According to reports, four United States air squadrons participating in "Operation Red Flag" are called by the "aggressor." Their pilots fly like Soviet pilots. They use Soviet stripes and identification marks on planes.

In study rooms placards, pictures and models of Soviet planes are on display. As one so-called aggressor pilot said: We are thoroughly trained in the doctrine. We live, breathe and eat Russian attitude and lifestyle. In other words, American soldiers and pilots are being trained to regard Soviet people as aggressors and their enemies and to learn to hate them. American military leaders, who are well known for their negative attitude toward Soviet proposals on disarmament, concentrate on conducting preparations directed against the Soviet Union.

Let us also recall numerous scenarios of nuclear war which have been composed in the Pentagon. They are scenarios not on the prevention of nuclear war but on waging it. Pentagon men are counting how many nuclear bombs would be needed to strike a blow against various cities of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. Needless to say, that such an approach of American military men and politicians toward our country is very dangerous for both the Soviet and American people. It is in full contradiction to official Washington statements about its desire to seek mutual trust and understanding between our two nations.

USSR MINISTER ON AGREEMENT WITH OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM

LD191806Y Moscow TASS in English 1410 GMT 19 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 19, TASS--The practical implementation of the long-term agreement on mutual trade turnover that was concluded five years ago between the USSR foreign trade organizations and the U.S. Occidental Petroleum Corporation was started with the sailing out of a Soviet tanker with a load of ammonia. This was the biggest commercial deal in the entire history of Soviet-American cooperation, Leonid Kostandov, the USSR minister of the chemical industry, writes today in PRAVDA. It is an example of equal, mutually advantageous business partnership between the two countries. The agreement is equally profitable for the Soviet Union and the United States.

The Soviet Union ranks first in the world for the output of mineral fertilizers, while the United States lacks natural gas from which ammonia and carbamide necessary for agriculture are manufactured. The agreement reached envisages trade turnover on a balanced basis. The Occidental Petroleum Corporation will be exporting to the USSR superphosphoric acid in the quantities whose cost is equal to that of ammonia, carbamide and potassium chloride that will be bought from the USSR. Capacities for production of ammonia and carbamide on the basis of natural gas are being built in the Soviet Union to implement the long-term agreement. A 2.5 thousand-kilometer-long pipeline for ammonia is being laid out to reach Odessa so that there should be no need to carry ammonia by rail. Storages are under construction for transshipment of products intended for export.

Declaring for widening of mutually advantageous commercial and economic relations with the United States, the Soviet Union attaches great importance to joint implementation of major long-term deals on a compensatory basis. Addressing representatives of the United States business circles in Moscow in October, 1974, the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Leonid Brezhnev, highly assessed the Soviet-American agreement on mutual deliveries of mineral fertilizers. We believe that cooperation of this kind has great future for it is fully in keeping with the contemporary level of industrial, economic, scientific and technical development of our countries and their potentials, he said.

FIFTH NPC WILL OPEN 26 FEB, MAY CHOOSE LEADERS

OW191356Y Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to China 1100 GMT 19 Feb 78 OW

[Text] Peking announced that the first session of the Fifth National People's Congress will open on 26 February 1978. This decision was made at a session of the Fourth NPC standing committee held on Saturday. Since October of last year, China has held provincial, municipal and autonomous regional people's congresses, which elected delegates to the Fifth NPC and set up new local political organs--revolutionary committees. On Friday, China announced the conclusion of the Kiangsi provincial people's congress, which was the last one among the people's congresses of China's 29 provinces. Judging by the members of the newly established local political organs, the people's congresses were held after extensive purging of the political enemies of the present leaders. Over 70 percent of the vice chairmen of the provincial revolutionary committees were changed.

Foreign diplomats in Peking believe that new government leaders will be appointed in the near future. These appointments will be made by the Fifth NPC. It is expected that Hua Kuo-feng, chairman of the CCP Central Committee, will give his post as the head of the government to Teng Hsiao-ping, vice chairman of the CCP Central Committee. This will greatly strengthen Teng Hsiao-ping's position in state leadership. Since Teng Hsiao-ping regained power last July, he has placed his confidants in important government and military posts. The forthcoming NPC is supposed to approve all newly appointed officials and fill all vacancies in the state political organs. In addition, the Fifth NPC will revise the Chinese constitution adopted at the previous NPC held in January 1975.

PRC CURRYS FAVOR WITH EGYPT, ISRAEL; OPPOSES USSR

OW190632Y Moscow in Mandarin to China 1030 GMT 16 Feb 78 OW

[Mitin commentary; "Peking Leaders are Trying to Pass Themselves off as Friends of the Arabs"]

[Excerpts] Leaders of the Arab countries recently ended the Algiers conference, which was held to voice opposition to the bilateral talks between Egypt and Israel. The conference's declaration pointed out that imperialism is doing its utmost in using the present Egyptian administration to resist the developing national liberation movements in the Arab world and in Africa. The declaration noted that President as-Sadat is operating within the confines of a plan set up by the United States and the Israeli Zionists--a plan which opposes a just peace based on recovery of occupied Arab lands in their entirety and the assurance of the inviolable national rights to the Palestinian people.

Peking's leaders have agreed with those who are praising the present policy pursued by Egyptian President as-Sadat. In the beginning, Peking's leaders tried to cover up their position on the Middle East problem when they gave implicit support to As-Sadat's anti-Arab policy. Even if this were not so, on 4 February they were no longer mincing their words but bluntly made their position known. On that day, when President as-Sadat was in Washington and did not receive the support he went there for, his special envoy, Vice-Premier Hasan at-Tuhami, was in Peking for the same purpose. Hua Kuo-feng warmly received Hasan at-Tuhami. During their conversation Hua Kuo-feng said the actions taken by As-Sadat were a "heroic struggle."

Peking is once again carrying out activities which run counter to the fundamental interests of the people of various Arab countries. It is currying favor with the imperialists, Zionists and Arab reactionaries. We say that it is carrying out such activities again because in 1967 when Israel launched its aggression, Peking's leaders were essentially pushing the same pro-imperialist, pro-Israeli policy. At the time, the Peking leadership gave active support to Israeli extremists in prolonging the war and obstructing a ceasefire. Peking's propaganda machine acted in complete accord with Israel's desire to continue the war against the people of the Arab countries and advocated the notorious "people's war," "protracted war," and so on. This it did in spite of the fact that, given the conditions in the Middle East, war meant suicide for the Arab people.

The anti-Arab position adopted by the Peking leadership today also has an indissoluble link with its anti-Sovietism. Peking has praised Egyptian President as-Sadat for his anti-Soviet policy, without dealing with the fact that this policy has not brought anything good to either the Egyptian people or the people of other Arab countries. Peking's leaders, while continuing to give lip service to their professed fraternal support to the anti-imperialist, anti-Zionist struggle waged by the Arab people, are in actual deeds taking the side of the enemies of the Arab people. This has become increasingly clearer to Arabs and those who are not making empty promises but taking action to support and assist the people of various Arab countries in their just struggle. This is understood by all those who are striving for genuine peace in the Near East and the whole world.

Dear listeners, you must agree that this position adopted by Peking can never be expected to raise the international prestige of China.

SOVIET-CHINESE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY HOLDS CONFERENCE

LD172040Y Moscow TASS in English 2030 GMT 17 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 17, TASS--The third USSR conference of the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Society took place here today. It was attended by veterans of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, active participants in the Chinese revolution, former soldiers and commanders of the Soviet Army, who took part in the national-liberation struggle of the Chinese people and in the liberation of China from the Japanese militarists. A big group of specialists, scientists, engineers, cultural workers and educationalists, who rendered assistance to the Chinese working people in economic and cultural construction after the establishment of the People's Republic of China.

The conference expressed unanimous support to the consistent Leninist policy of the CPSU and the Soviet Government in respect to China, reaffirmed at the 25th Congress of the CPSU, and meeting fully the vital interests of the peoples of both states, the interests of peace and socialism.

The conference participants familiarised themselves with the exhibition of books on China, put out in recent years in the Soviet Union.

The conference was attended by diplomatic officials of the PRC Embassy in the USSR.

HONECKER SPEECH MARKS SOVIET TROOP ANNIVERSARY

LD202042Y Moscow TASS in English 2000 GMT 20 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Berlin, Feb 20 TASS--The GDR news agency ADN reports:

"The political, economic and military strength of socialism is growing incessantly, the same as its magnetic force on all peoples who struggle for freedom, progress and for the realisation of human rights," said Erich Honecker, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) and chairman of the State Council of the German Democratic Republic today, Monday.

Mr Honecker visited a regiment of the group of Soviet Armed Forces in Germany on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the foundation of the Soviet Armed Forces.

Addressing the officers and men of the regiment which in summer 1939 helped smash the Japanese aggressor forces on the Khalkhin gol and fought in the battle for Berlin in liquidating Hitlerite fascism, Erich Honecker said: "The Soviet Union is today the strongest force of the socialist military alliance. She renders the largest and most important contribution to the defence of socialism and peace."

Mr Honecker added: "Closely rallied around the Soviet Union, the peoples of the socialist community, together with the international workers movement, the national liberation movements and all progressive forces in the world, have wrested one position after the other from imperialism".

Erich Honecker told the Soviet soldiers: "In all phases of the development of the Soviet Armed Forces the truth which is valid for all socialist armies has been confirmed that leadership by the Communist Party is and remains the main source of all successes in the reliable protection of the socialist fatherland and in the organisation of national defence."

Historic experience was showing, however, that the construction of socialism, the development of its international authority was taking place in hard struggle with imperialism which would not put up with the triumph of socialism, Erich Honecker added.

He pointed to the coordinated policy of the fraternally allied socialist states, which had a decisive share in the bringing about of strategic successes in the process of detente and in the struggle for peaceful coexistence.

In the world of today there was no reasonable alternative to the policy of peaceful coexistence, he added. "further progress on the road of the stabilisation of peace and security, which is the only road possible for mankind, can be achieved only through the consistent struggle of the peace-loving and progressive forces against the most aggressive quarters of imperialism," Erich Honecker said.

The supreme commander of the group of Soviet Armed Forces in Germany, Army General Yevgeniy Ivanovskiy, who also took the floor at the meeting, said but for the Soviet Army the Soviet people would not have been able to protect their revolutionary achievements against hostile attacks. By crushing Hitlerite fascism the Soviet Army had accomplished a great internationalist deed and created unlimited possibilities for far-reaching revolutionary transformations in the world.

General Ivanovski added international detente was an objective reality of the present, which was increasingly determining the course and the character of the development of inter-governmental relations.

Referring to the fact that Soviet soldiers on the territory of the friendly GDR help protect the Western borders of the socialist community, he said the armies of the Warsaw treaty states today had at their disposal everything they needed for ensuring the joint defence of the achievements of their peoples.

BREZHNEV, KOSYGIN CABLE HUNGARIAN LEADERS

LD181732Y Moscow in Hungarian to Hungary 1800 GMT 17 Feb 78 LD

[Text] The telegram of greetings sent by Leonid Brezhnev and Aleksey Kosygin to Janos Kadar, first secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP] Central Committee; Pal Losonczi, president of the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic; and Gyorgy Lazar, chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers, says:

Dear comrades: On behalf of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the USSR Council of Ministers and the entire Soviet people we greet you and in your person the MSZMP Central Committee, the Hungarian Presidential Council and the Council of Ministers of the Hungarian People's Republic as well as every worker of socialist Hungary on the occasion of this notable anniversary--the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Soviet-Hungarian treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance.

Embodied in this most important political document is the will of the peoples of the two countries to steadily strengthen friendship and develop all-round cooperation in implementing the plans for socialist and communist construction, in consolidating the unity and cohesion of states of the socialist community and in the joint struggle for peace and international security.

The effectiveness of our treaty is convincingly shown by the entire history of Soviet-Hungarian cooperation following the signing of the treaty. This cooperation is strengthening year by year. The new Soviet-Hungarian treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance, signed in September 1967, has constructively further developed and deepened the principles of the 1948 treaty, providing a new impetus for coordinating our endeavors in the interest and well-being of the Soviet Union and Hungary.

The firm friendship between our parties, countries and peoples, the community of their aims and the unity of their fundamental interests and views are characteristic features of the new type of Soviet-Hungarian relations. These relations are based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism.

The Soviet Communists and all Soviet people are genuinely pleased with and proud of the achievements of the Hungarian People's Republic in building the new life, perfecting socialist social conditions and developing their economy, science and culture. In the future as well, we shall continue to strengthen the alliance, friendship and cooperation with the Communists of Socialist Hungary and with all its workers in the name of the victory of the great cause of socialism and communism.

We wish you, our dear friends, the entire fraternal Hungarian people, new and great successes in implementing the resolutions of the 11th MSZMP Congress and the tasks of the fifth 5-year plan, and in the building of an advanced socialist society on Hungarian soil.

Long live the firm, indissoluble friendship of the peoples of the Soviet Union and the Hungarian People's Republic.

Signed: Leonid Brezhnev and Aleksey Kosygin, in the Kremlin in Moscow, February 1978.

Hungarian Reply

LD181838Y Moscow in Hungarian to Hungary 1800 GMT 17 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Janos Kadar, first secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP] Central Committee, Pal Losonczi, president of the Hungarian Presidential Council, and Gyorgy Lazar, chairman of Hungary's Council of Ministers, have sent a telegram to the Soviet leaders. The telegram says:

To Comrade Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and to Comrade Aleksey Kosygin, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers:

Dear Comrades: On behalf of the MSZMP Central Committee, the Presidential Council and Council of Minister of the Hungarian People's Republic as well as the Hungarian people and ourselves, we send our comradely greetings and best wishes to you and the fraternal Soviet people, who are building socialism, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Soviet-Hungarian treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance.

The first Hungarian-Soviet friendship treaty, signed 30 years ago, is regarded by the Hungarian people as a historic document which expresses the deep changes in the relations between Hungary and the Soviet Union which liberated it. The splendid successes achieved in the sphere of many-sided cooperation during the past three decades convincingly demonstrate that this development, which is built on the principles of Marxism-Leninism, proletarian internationalism, the identity of interests and goals and on indissoluble fraternal friendship, has effectively served the interests of our peoples and the socialist community, and has made a contribution to the strengthening of peace and security in Europe and in the whole world.

The first treaty of friendship, signed in 1948, fulfilled its historic mission. On the basis of the past achievements, on 7 September 1967 the Hungarian People's Republic and the Soviet Union signed a new treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance. The new treaty brought the relations of friendship between our countries and peoples to an even higher plane, and provided new horizons for the development of mutually beneficial Hungarian-Soviet cooperation in the political, economic and cultural spheres.

The fraternal alliance of the Hungarian People's Republic and the Soviet Union is a firm cohesive force in the historically new system of alliance of the socialist countries. The many-sided cooperation and friendship of the socialist countries successfully serve the cause of strengthening world peace and the cause of building socialism and communism. The Hungarian workers march with the fraternal Soviet Union on the shared historic road in the worldwide struggle for the lessening of international tension, the security of the peoples and social progress.

On the 30th anniversary of the friendship treaty between our countries we wish you, dear comrades, and the entire Soviet people outstanding successes in the building of communism and in your activities for strengthening peace and security.

USSR-HUNGARY TREATY NOTED IN MOSCOW CELEBRATION

LD171924Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1830 GMT 17 Feb 78 LD

[Text] A festive meeting, devoted to the 30th anniversary of the treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance between the Soviet Union and the Hungarian People's Republic, took place in Moscow today.

It was attended by Mazurov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; Rusakov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; and other officials.

Novikov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, who spoke at the meeting, noted that the 1948 treaty had marked the beginning of the development of fraternal relations between the two peoples united by common interests in the struggle for the achievement of a single aim; the building of a socialist and communist society.

Marjai, the Hungarian ambassador to the USSR, said in his speech that the treaty serves as an example of mutual trust, respect and fraternal assistance.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF CSSR OBSERVED

LD181202Y Moscow TASS in English 1114 GMT 18 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Prague, February 18, TASS--(TASS correspondent Leonid Latyshev)

The Czechoslovak public widely observes the 30th anniversary of the people's victory over the forces of reaction in 1948. That victory opened the way to socialist construction in Czechoslovakia.

A theoretical conference held at the Prague City Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia was devoted to the participation of the party organization of Prague in the events in February, 1948. Party veterans spoke about vast political and organizing work of the communists in February, 1948, to elucidate the policy of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, to enlist the support of all the working people, to isolate bourgeoisie and its accomplices.

An enlarged plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak People's Party was held in Prague. Its participants emphasized huge historic importance of the February victory of the people for the republic's development along the socialist road.

A special place in the February victory was held by the people's militia, armed units of the working class that was created 30 years ago to protect the interests of the people.

Chief of the main staff of the People's Militia, M. Novak, told newsmen that in February, 1948, and in subsequent years of socialist construction, the People's Militia loyally assisted the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in its struggle for the cause of the people. In the first years after the victory we fought against sabotage at enterprises, against the rural rich and speculators, guarded plants and cooperatives, M. Novak said. The workers, members of the units of the People's Militia now conduct vast educational work among the youth. Educational activities, exemplary work of communists is now the main method.

The exhibitions devoted to the historic victory of the working people in February 1948, to the country's achievements over 30 years were opened in Prague, Bratislava, Brno, Gottwaldov and other Czechoslovak towns.

LUKANOV REVIEWS CEMA EXECUTIVE MEETING

AU182018Y Moscow Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1630 GMT 18 Feb 78 AU

[Unidentified Moscow Radio correspondent "interview" with Andrey Lukanov, deputy chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers and Bulgaria's permanent representative to CEMA, in connection with recent CEMA executive committee session in Moscow--presumably in Moscow, no date given]

[Text] [Lukanov recorded] I can only say about the 84th CEMA session that it was a working and businesslike session in which we discussed a number of issues related to fulfillment of the comprehensive program for development of socialist economic integration. The main issue of the session, perhaps, was that of further developing the power supply systems in the CEMA member countries. We are aware that this issue is (?acute) in every country in the world and we are glad to note that the socialist countries, encompassed within the CEMA framework, have succeeded in establishing an effective and stable system of cooperation [words indistinct] that will actually provide a model of interaction and international cooperation in the development of electric power supply systems as well as of a conservation program for electric power and of mutual assistance [words indistinct] sector of the socioeconomic development. We also agreed on a number of additional measures to (?raise our cooperation) to a higher level. This refers to the development of the electric-generating potential of the CEMA member countries, to linking our countries with new and super-powerful electric lines for transmission of supplies of electric power [words indistinct] of the unified electric power systems of the East European socialist countries and the Soviet Union. This will be one of the major initiatives connected with fulfilling the comprehensive program.

(?We also discussed) some measures for speeding fulfillment of the CEMA decisions on elaborating long-term cooperation programs in the field of power supply, grid systems and raw materials as well as in developing machinebuilding, mass consumer goods (?and others), which are key problems for the world today. We established that our work in this field was developing well and we are of the opinion that in 1978 we will be able to (?effect these long-term cooperation programs). You know that in essence this is a new type of document [words indistinct] of planning cooperation among our fraternal countries. I wish to particularly emphasize that the elaboration and accomplishment of these programs will secure for all CEMA member countries possibilities for stable future development, for maintaining high rates of industrial development and for raising the living standards of the peoples, which not every country in the world [words indistinct]. Despite the difficulties experienced by the majority of countries today because of the world economic crisis, industrial production in Bulgaria within the past 2 years has steadily increased by 8-9 percent annually and national income by 7.2-7.5 percent, and the fulfillment of the party's program for raising the living standards of the people continues. All this we owe not only to our own national strength, but also to the fact that we are developing broad cooperation with the Soviet Union and the other CEMA member countries.

PLO CONDEMNS 'CRIMINALS' FOR ASSASSINATION IN CYPRUS

LD201027Y Moscow TASS in English 1017 GMT 20 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Beirut, February 20, TASS--A statement of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation that was published here concerning the incident in Cyprus in which the AAPSO Secretary-General Yusuf as-Siba'i was assassinated and hostages, among them a PLO delegation were taken, says that the raid on hall in the Nicosia Hilton hotel where the AAPSO conference was held was staged by a group of criminals.

The PLO strongly condemns this criminal act directed against all peoples of Asia and Africa and against the world national liberation movement. The PLO also condemns the forces that are behind this crime and the attempts to put a slur on the Palestinians by such barbarous actions.

SYRIA'S AL-ASAD, DELEGATION BEGIN VISIT TO SOVIET UNION

Met by Brezhnev, Others

LD201540Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1430 GMT 20 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic, arrived in Moscow today at the head of a party and government delegation on an official visit at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Council of Ministers.

At Vnukovo Airport, which was decked out in the flags of the Syrian Arab Republic and the USSR, Hafiz al-Asad was met at the aircraft steps by Brezhnev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium chairman; Kosygin, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; Marshal of the Soviet Union Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, USSR defense minister; Kuznetsov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; Korniyenko, first deputy USSR foreign minister.

Hafiz al-Asad was also met by Sarkisov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; Arkhipov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; Georgadze, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; ministers of the USSR Alekseyevskiy, Bugayev, Bakhirev, Polyakov, Shchelokov; Skachkov, chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations; Marshal of the Soviet Union Ogarkov, first deputy USSR defense minister; Chernyakov, USSR ambassador to the Syrian Arab Republic; and other officials.

Present at the airport were Jabr al-Kafri, the Syrian Arab Republic's ambassador to the USSR; heads of diplomatic missions of a number of countries accredited in the USSR; Syrian students studying in Moscow's higher educational establishments; and representatives of the capital's working people.

An honor guard of the three armed forces, the infantry, pilots and sailors was assembled at the airfield. Leonid Ilich Brezhnev and Hafiz al-Asad reviewed the ranks of Soviet soldiers, and the national anthems of the Soviet Union and the Syrian Arab Republic were played.

The streets and squares of the capital, through which the leading figures of the Soviet Union and the Syrian Arab Republic passed, accompanied by a motorcycle escort, were decorated with the national flags of the two countries and with welcoming banners.

Brezhnev, Al-Asad Begin Talks

LD210902Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0850 GMT 21 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, 21 February--Soviet-Syrian talks began in the Kremlin today. They are being held between Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; Aleksey Kosygin, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; Dmitriy Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, USSR minister of defense and marshal of the Soviet Union; and, on the Syrian side, Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Hafiz al-Asad is in the Soviet Union at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Council of Ministers at the head of a party-government delegation on an official, friendly visit.

SOVIET-SYRIAN TIES NOTED; SYRIAN MIDEAST POLICY SUPPORTED

LD201534Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 20 Feb 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic, arrives in the Soviet Union today on an official, friendly visit at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Soviet Government. The leaders of the two friendly states will hold important talks.

President Hafiz al-Asad has paid more than one official visit to the Soviet Union at the head of party and government delegations. Consequently, personal contacts between the leaders of the two parties and the two friendly states have become a good tradition. This is one of the numerous proofs of equal and close relations that have long linked the Soviet Union and Syria.

One must mention the fact that Syria was one of the first Arab states to establish diplomatic relations with our country and conclude a long-term agreement on economic and technical cooperation with the Soviet Union. The program documents of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party--the ruling party in Syria--confirm that Syria follows a strategic line aimed at comprehensive development and at strengthening friendship and fruitful cooperation with the Soviet Union.

The leadership of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party and the Syrian state believes that these relations are in the national interests of the Syrian people and the Syrian state and in the interests of their struggle against the intrigues of imperialism and the hostile policy of Zionism, and also for realizing social and economic progress in the Syrian Arab Republic.

This foreign policy of the Syrian Arab Republic meets with complete understanding from the leaders and people of the Soviet Union. PRAVDA welcomes President Hafiz al-Asad and through him the friendly Syrian people. It notes that the Soviet citizens express the confidence that his visit, his coming meetings and talks with Soviet leaders will serve the cause of continuing the strengthening of friendship and fruitful cooperation between the peoples of the two states. They also serve the interests of establishing a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

It must be noted that the Soviet Union has shown an understanding of the initiative of Syria and a number of other progressive Arab states and the PLO aimed at uniting the ranks of the progressive forces of the Arab world in their struggle to liquidate the consequences of Israeli aggression and against the separatist line pursued by Cairo.

Aleksey Kosygin stated recently that the efforts of the aforementioned states led to constructive political solutions for the benefit of Arab unity. The Soviet premier also pointed out that the resolutions of the meetings of Arab leaders in Tripoli and Algeria warn all those who want to squander the interests of the Arab states that solving the Middle East crisis requires a comprehensive settlement and that separate talks can only delay this settlement. Aleksey Kosygin also said that the Soviet Union will always remain sympathetic to the nations which defend the cause of peace, national independence and progress.

SOVIET, LIBYAN TALKS END, JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED

LD1719047 Moscow TASS in English 1618 GMT 17 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 17, TASS--Soviet-Libyan negotiations ended in the Kremlin on February 17.

Taking part on the Soviet side were Politbureau member of the CPSU CC, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Aleksey Kosygin, Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Ivan Arkhipov, Chairman of the State Committee for Economic Relations Semyon Skachkov, chief of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces, first deputy minister of defence, Marshal of the Soviet Union Nikolay Ogarkov, Deputy Foreign Minister Leonid Ilichev.

On the Libyan side--member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, Secretary for the Affairs of Industry Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, Secretary for the Affairs of Electrification Jum'ah al-Arbash.

They completed an examination of questions pertaining to Soviet-Libyan relations and of topical international problems of mutual interest, and outlined measures to deepen all-round reciprocally advantageous cooperation, and expand coordination of the actions by the Soviet Union and Libya in the international arena.

A joint communique has been agreed, which will be published.

The negotiations passed in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding.

Libyan-Soviet Communique

LD2100527 Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 1915 GMT 20 Feb 78 LD

[Text of the joint Soviet-Libyan communique issued on 20 February following the visit of staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ammad Jallud]

[Text] A the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government, Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud member of the General Secretariat of General People's Congress in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah paid an official and friendly visit to the USSR from 14 to 17 February 1978.

Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud received a warm and friendly welcome which expresses the strong ties of friendship between the peoples of the two countries. During the visit he laid wreaths at the Lenin mausoleum and at the tomb of the unknown soldiers.

Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and chairman of th USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, received Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud. They exchanged viewpoints on the continuation of the promotion and consolidation of friendly relations between Libya and the Soviet Union and also on current international issues. They expressed satisfaction with cooperation which is getting stronger between Libya and the Soviet Union, stressing the two countries' intention to deepen and expand their relations in all fields.

When discussing international issues, both sides paid special attention to the situation in the Arab region. They stressed with satisfaction the fact that Libyan-Soviet contacts and meetings have become a positive tradition in relations between the two countries, and that they are contributing to prompting friendship and comprehensive cooperation between them. The meeting took place in an atmosphere of cordiality and friendship.

Talks also took place between Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress and Aleksey Kosygin, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. These talks took place in a spirit of friendship and mutual understanding.

Taking part in the talks on the Libyan side were: Engineer Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, the secretary of industry; Engineer Jum'ah Salim al-Arbash, secretary of electricity; Muhammad Sidqi Cha'ban, undersecretary for political affairs at the Foreign Secretariat; Zuwali Suwayden, Libyan ambassador to the USSR; 'Abd al-Fattah as-Salbi director general of the atmoic energy establishment; Mansur Sughayyir, director general of the forestry department at the agriculture secretariat; Ahmad Muqadmi, director general of foreign trade at the trade secretariat; Nuri Snusi, chairman of the board of the Arab Gulf Exploration Company; Usama al-Baziqni, director general of the electricity secretariat; Muhammad Ajjal, director general of the electricity secretariat; Ysuf 'Amr al-'Azadi, head of the political affairs office at the European department at the Foreign Secretariat.

The Soviet side was represented by: I.V. Arkhipov, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers; S.A. Skachkov, chairman of the State Commiteee for Foreign Economic Ties; Minister Marshal N.V. Ogarkov, chief of staff and first deputy of the defense; L.S. Ilichev, deputy foreign minister; Anisimov, Soviet ambassador to Libya; L.S. (Litsov) assistant chairman of the Council of Ministers; A. Shvedov, head of the first African department; and Sofinskiy, head of the press division.

Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud informed Aleksey Kosygin of the achievements of the great 1 September revolution in the political, economic, social and ideological fields, which are regarded as a great contribution to the struggle of the progressive forces of the world against imperialism, colonialism, reaction, racism and Zionism--these being forms of racism and racial discrimination. He informed Kosygin on the realization of direct democracy for the Libyan Arab people and the establishment of the people's authority and the decisions regarding the implementation of an ambitious plan for economic and social changes. He also told Kosygin about the special recommendations to continue consolidating and strengthening friendship with the socialist countries community in the common interests of the Arab nation and this community.

Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud also spoke about the efforts being exerted by Libya with the aim of doubling the struggle against colonialism, Zionism and reaction and of safeguarding the revolutionary gains of the Libyan Arab people, and Libya's determination to defend these achievements.

The Soviet side emphasized its high appreciation for the achievements of the 1 September revolution in the political, economic, social and other fields. The Soviet side also expressed appreciation for its (?great) role in confronting colonialism and imperialism and the monopolist, racist and reactionary forces. The Soviet side highly praised the effective role being placed by Libya on behalf of the realization of Arab unity.

The Soviet side informed the Libyan side of the great constructive work being done by the CPSU and the Soviet Government in building communism, and of the new Soviet Constitution, which has been a new historic step in the development of the Soviet state and the building of the progressive socialist community. The Soviet side also informed the Libyans of the measures taken to realize the program for the continuation of the struggle for world peace and cooperation and the people's independence--the program which was approved by the 25th CPSU Congress.

The Libyan side expressed high admiration for the achievements of the Soviet people in the economic, cultural and social fields; for the peaceful foreign policy which is being followed by the Soviet Union in accordance with the resolutions of the 25th CPSU Congress; for the Soviet Union's role in the struggle against imperialism, racism and colonialism; and for the Soviet Union's efforts at consolidating world peace and security and lessening world tension.

The two sides reviewed the current international situation and stressed that their viewpoints on such issues as the struggle for world peace and security based on justice and on lessening world tension and on other issues of the hour were identical or close to each other.

Both sides again declared their joint ambition to consolidate their political cooperation in the international field. They showed special interest in the situation in the Arab region and in Africa, which is being exposed to a savage imperialist attack. The Soviet side highly appreciated the important role being played by Libya in the struggle for the unity of the progressive forces in the Arab homeland.

Both sides strongly condemned the capitulatory policy of the Egyptian president. They believe this policy will make a true and just settlement more remote and will inflict great damage on the interests of the Arab nation as well as on the just cause of the Palestinian Arab people. They also condemned this policy, which is causing a deep split in Arab ranks and is encouraging the aggressor.

The two sides stressed the positive importance of the Tripoli and Algiers steadfastness conferences and of the establishment of the steadfastness and confrontation front. They stressed the need to continue the work for the realization of Arab unity on progressive and anti-imperialist bases, and also the consolidation of ties of friendship between the Arab nation and the Soviet Union and countries of the socialist community.

The two sides declare their intention to repel any attempt which seeks to harm the relations of Arab-Soviet friendship and cooperation. They deem it their duty to strengthen and to expand these relations in response to the interests of the Arab nation in its just struggle.

They strongly condemn the continued Zionist aggression against the Arab nation, stressing that this aggression constitutes a serious threat to world peace and security. They stress that real peace in the Arab region cannot be established without the liberation of all the occupied Arab territories and the realization of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, who have been driven out of their (?land) by force. This includes their right to self-determination and the creation of their national state. Both sides stressed their support for the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people, the PLO--the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people--and the struggle (?supported) by the UN resolutions. They regard the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people as an integral part of the national liberation movement of the Arab nation. They also condemned the constant violation of human rights by the Zionist entity in the occupied Arab territories, and also the forced removal of the Arab inhabitants from their land and the creation of settlements of that land.

Libya and the Soviet Union believe that the consolidation of Arab unity on a progressive, anticolonialist basis is the most important guarantee for the success of the liberation struggle being waged by the Arabs against imperialism, colonialism and aggression. They work for the strengthening and deepening of the Arab nation's relations with the Soviet Union and countries of the socialist community. They express their support for the consolidation and deepening of these relations.

The Soviet Union stresses its firm and resolute intention to continue its support in various fields for the Arab people, who are struggling to strengthen their national independence and to advance and progress.

Both sides also reviewed the explosive situation in some parts of Africa, stressing the necessity to put an end to colonialist intervention and that the Africans should be given free hand in managing their own affairs. Both sides expressed great concern over the grave situation arising in the Horn of Africa. They declared that they support the settlement of the dispute between Somalia and Ethiopia in a peaceful manner, based on the respect by both sides for the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity and security of borders and noninterference in each other's internal affairs, since all this conforms with the principles of the UN and the resolutions of the OAU.

Both sides firmly call for the final liquidation of colonialism and racism. They declare their intention to continue giving (?full) support for the struggle of the peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa for their national independence, freedom and equality. Both sides condemn any plots that aim at maintaining the colonialist and racist regimes in any form. It is their opinion that important and vital issues in southern Africa cannot be solved before the liquidation of the racist regimes and unless all power rests in the hands of the representatives of the African majority. The two sides stress that they will continue to assist the African peoples struggling for liberation and for a final end to foreign monopolies. They declare that they are against any attempt by the imperialist circles and neocolonialism to dominate the affairs of the African peoples or to impose any resolutions in the interest of the racist regimes.

Both sides condemn the policy of racial discrimination. Both sides condemn collusion between the racist regimes in occupied Palestine and South Africa and their alliance to strike at the liberation struggle of the Arab and African peoples.

Both sides paid special attention to the question of disarmament, out of their belief in the gravity of the issue and its importance in the struggle for the consolidation of world peace and security. They stressed the need to convene the international disarmament conference in the near future.

Both sides expressed considerable appreciation for the important role being played by the nonalined countries, and in particular the efforts in the struggle against imperialism and for supporting justice as well as supporting the efforts aimed at realizing world peace and security.

The Soviet Union highly appreciates the positive role Libya is playing in the nonalined movement. Both sides support the right of all people to control their natural resources and their struggle to end all forms of inequality in world economic relations. They stress the need to continue the efforts to establish a new world economic system on a just basis that puts an end to monopoly and exploitation and inequality and insures prosperity for all peoples. Both sides stress their adherence to the charter, principles and aims of the UN. They pointed out the positive role of the organization in consolidating world peace and security.

Both sides agreed on the importance of political cooperation and coordination between the two countries. They agree on having contacts at all levels on issues that concern both countries. They express satisfaction with the development of Libyan-Soviet relations, and they underline their intention to deepen and expand cooperation between them in the economic, cultural, technical, scientific and other fields.

Both sides express high appreciation for the outcome of the talks, and they believe that the visit of Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud has given new momentum in the direction of consolidating relations and cooperation between the two countries. Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud expressed profound thanks to the CPSU Central Committee, to the Supreme Soviet Presidium and to the Soviet Government and people for the cordial welcome and the hospitality accorded him and his delegation. In the name of the Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the general secretary of the General People's Congress, and in his own name, he invited Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, and Aleksey Kosygin, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, to visit Libya. The invitations were accepted with thanks.

Economic Protocol Signed

LD171536Y Moscow TASS in English 1517 GMT 17 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 17, TASS--A protocol on the further development of economic and technical cooperation between the USSR and Libya was signed in Moscow today.

The protocol was signed on the Soviet side by Semen Skachkov, chairman of the Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and on the Libyan side by Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary for industry.

Soviet Assistance Detailed

LD181816Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1230 GMT 18 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpts] Soviet-Libyan talks in Moscow ended yesterday. An economic and technical cooperation protocol was signed during the talks.

The Soviet-Libyan cooperation protocol calls for the strengthening of relations between the two countries in the metallurgical, power, oil and gas industries, mining and agriculture. Libya is to receive assistance in building an iron and steel plant with an output capacity of 5 million tons of steel a year. The Soviet Union will also assist Libya in developing its natural gas industry up to the year 2000. Soviet geologists are to go to Libya to explore for oil. It has been decided to expedite the building of an electro-atomic station and two power transmission lines in Libya.

Patolichev, Libya's Al-Talhi Meet

LD171826Y Moscow TASS in English 1702 GMT 17 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 17, TASS--Today Nikolay Patolichev, minister of foreign trade of the USSR, met Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary for industry of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, and Jum'ah al-Arbash, secretary for electrification. Matters of trade relations between the two countries were discussed.

SOVIET-LIBYAN TALKS PRODUCE ACCORD ON MIDEAST

LD172312Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 17 Feb 78 LD

[Aleksandr Timoshkin commentary]

[Excerpts] It was announced earlier that official talks and meetings have taken place in Moscow between the leaders of the Soviet Union and the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. The Libyan delegation is headed by Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress. It came to the Soviet Union on an official visit. The talks were held in a friendly atmosphere and in a spirit of understanding.

The major event during the visit of Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud was his meeting and talks with Leonid Brezhnev. One can confidently say that the Soviet-Libyan meetings and talks were successful. The most important result of these talks was the accord and identity of views on the issues and questions discussed. Above all, I would like to say that the Soviet and Libyan leaders have expressed their satisfaction with the cooperation which is constantly developing and strengthening between them. They also expressed their mutual determination to continue to deepen and expand friendly Soviet-Libyan relations in all fields.

The leaders of the two countries also discussed a number of major world issues. It was natural that special attention should be given to the current situation in the Middle East. I find it important to stress that the two countries consider the task of achieving a just settlement in the Middle East as the most (?pressing) task.

The Soviet Union and Libya share the view that separate talks between the Egyptian leadership and Israel greatly harm the interests of the Arab people in their struggle for liquidating the consequences of the Israeli aggression. They also hinder the emergence of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Therefore, it is logical that the Soviet side should regard the initiative of Libya, Syria, Algeria, Iraq, the PDRY and the PLO to unify the ranks of the progressive Arab forces as an important step toward repelling the serious consequences of As-Sadat's capitulationist policy.

Aleksey Kosygin said that the Soviet Union believes that the meeting of the leaders of progressive Arab states and the PLO in Tripoli and Algiers led to the emergence of constructive political resolutions in the interests of Arab unity. And I recall here that the participants in these meetings confirmed the belief of their people in the firmness of the backing and assistance the Soviet Union is giving to them in their just struggle against imperialism. As a result of their own experience, the Arab nations know that the success of this struggle depends a good deal on their friendly and firm relations with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries.

In the Moscow talks, the Soviet Union and the Libyan Jamahiriyah affirmed that they will work for a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East. In particular, I would like to stress the firmness of the Soviet attitude toward the Palestinian issue, which continues to be the basis of a settlement. Our country once again resolutely affirmed the justice of the demands of the Palestinian people concerning the upholding of their rights and the establishment of their own state.

Thus, gentlemen, the Soviet-Libyan talks have produced positive results which will inevitably have a good effect on the future development of events in the Middle East.

ISRAEL REPORTEDLY PREPARING INVASION OF S. LEBANON

LD181414Y Moscow TASS in English 1323 GMT 18 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Beirut, February 18, TASS--(TASS correspondent Anatoliy Borisov)

Alarming reports that the Israeli military prepares a large-scale invasion of the south Lebanese districts come from the south of Lebanon. Israel brought more armoured and motorized units to the Lebanese border, and is spreading the area of shelling to prepare a place d'arms for occupation of the south of Lebanon. Throughout yesterday and the previous night, Israeli guns continually shelled heavily the populated localities of An-Nabatiyah, An-Naqurah, Yarun and others. The shelling destroyed crops, orchards and dozens of buildings in many areas of south Lebanon. There is loss of life. It is remarkable that for the first time after a long period, Israeli planes made simultaneous raids on practically all south Lebanese districts from Marj Uyun to the Mediterranean coast.

The Israeli planes are constantly making reconnaissance flights over Sidon, Tyre, Bint Jubayl, and An-Nabatiyah. The authorities of Tyre, fearing an armed attack on the town, closed down schools and stores and announced the state of emergency. Fishermen had to stop fishing operations because of provocative actions of Israel military launches in the Lebanese territorial waters.

After yesterday's joint meeting of the leadership of the Palestinian resistance movement and the national patriotic forces which discussed the recent developments in south Lebanese districts, member of the central political council of the national patriotic forces G. Haoui said that the Israeli troops started the occupation of the south Lebanese districts and seized the populated localities of Mays Al Jabal, Blida, Mazraat Muhaybib. They prepared the roads to occupy the districts 'Aytarun and Bayt Lif.

SINISTER MOTIVES SEEN IN PLAN FOR U.S. GULF DEFENSE FORCE

LD161345Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Feb 78 p 5 LD

[Yuriy Glukhov article: "Throwback to a Dangerous Policy"]

[Text] As the Washington POST reported recently, the U.S. Armed Forces are creating a special mobile formation comprising two divisions of ground forces and a Marine division with attached aviation. This is intended for transfer to the Persian Gulf zone to "defend" the oil sources in the event of "emergency circumstances" arising there. According to reports, this formation is being set up in accordance with a directive from U.S. Defense Secretary H. Brown, who recently launched a broad program for the creation of special-purpose landing units.

Judging by appearances, this Pentagon decision signifies the implementation of plans which were condemned by the international public several years ago. Nevertheless, an attempt is being made to implement them. Thus last September, the press featured reports that the Persian Gulf zone had been included in the region of active U.S. strategic influence--something which also encountered sharp criticism from official circles and the broad public in the Arab countries. The U.S. statements, Iraqi President al-Bakr noted, reveal the country's aggressive intentions. These intentions are closely linked with the imperialist plans for solving the Near East problem to the detriment of the Arab people's interests. Iraq, he noted, categorically rejects the American plans for establishing dominance over oil resources in the Persian Gulf area.

The People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Kuwait and the Iranian press also protested against the American military's actions. The Pentagon's plans were regarded by the Arab public as overt interference in other people's affairs and as an attempt by the United States to act as a policeman in this region of the world.

The Pentagon has also failed in its attempt to camouflage the aggressive nature of its strategic concept regarding the Persian Gulf by citing "special patronage" for certain states there. "All Washington's statements," Iran's PEIGHAME EMRUZ has written, "smell of oil, the weapons trade and the kind of cunning tricks through which they hope to make Iran the shield for safeguarding American interests in the Persian Gulf."

One cannot help noting that the U.S. plans regarding the Persian Gulf coincide with the intensification of the imperialist intrigues in other areas, particularly the Horn of Africa. Doesn't this mean that we are seeking a throwback to the dangerous policy of creating a new hotbed of tension?

AAPSO SECRETARY GENERAL KILLED IN NICOSIA 18 FEB

'Act of Terrorism'

LD181020Y Moscow TASS in English 1009 GMT 18 Feb 78 LD

["Act of Terrorism in Nicosia"--TASS headline]

[Text] Nicosia, February 18, TASS--Secretary-General of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization Yusuf as-Siba'i has been just killed by pistol shots in the "Hilton" Hotel in Nicosia where the Presidium of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization is holding its session.

Killing Condemned

LD202226Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 20 Feb 78 LD

[Text] World progressive public opinion strongly condemns the criminals who killed Yusuf as-Siba'i, AAPSO secretary general, in Nicosia. Such crimes cannot possibly be committed except by quarters which wish to strike at the solidarity of the Afro-Asian peoples and countries in their struggle against imperialism and for national liberation. Those behind the true murderers of As-Siba'i cannot possibly be anyone except those who do not hesitate to defame the Palestine resistance movement and harm the prestige and influence of the Palestine Liberation Organization which is leading the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people for the restoration of their national legitimate rights.

Progressive public opinion strongly condemns those who engineered the immoral assassination of a prominent public Arab figure, the writer Yusuf as-Siba'i, and at the same time expresses astonishment and perplexity at the actions of Cairo which haphazardly and without explanation sent armed commando forces to Nicosia. By their irresponsible actions, the Egyptian commandos caused the death of some people and exposed the Cypriot president and the participants in the AAPSO session to danger.

The Cyprus Government has protested against the violation of the republic's sovereignty by the Egyptian military aircraft and against this flagrant interference in its internal affairs.

The Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee has condemned the assassination of Yusuf as-Siba'i and described this act as a service to imperialism and reaction.

Egyptian Attack

LD201613Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1415 GMT 20 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Nicosia TASS--Violating the sovereignty of the Cypriot Republic, a detachment of the Egyptian "commandos" carried out a bandit-like attack on the Cypriot International Airport of Larnaca. The Egyptian airborne assault troops who yesterday disembarked from the transport craft of the Egyptian Air Force attempted by force to commandeer the Cypriot Airways passenger plane there in the hands of the participants in the attack on and assassination of Yusuf as-Siba'i, the general secretary of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization (AAPSO).

The Cyprus National Guard was brought in to restore order. As a result of the shooting, 15 Egyptian "commandos" were killed and 19 wounded. On the Cypriot side seven people were wounded.

The president of Cyprus, S. Kyprianou, issued a statement sharply condemning the armed action by Egypt at Larnaca Airport. The firing on the Cypriot airport by the Egyptian airborne assault troops was carried out, as President S. Kyprianou stated, just as negotiations were in progress between the Cypriot authorities and the criminals who killed Yusuf as-Siba'i. AAPSO secretary general, and had seized the hostages, on the procedure for the terrorists' surrender to the Cypriot authorities and the freeing of the hostages.

S. Kyprianou went on to say that when none of the countries agreed to take the Cypriot airplane with the hostages, the Cyprus Government reached an agreement with the hijackers on the return of the plane to Cyprus for negotiations.

I established contact with the leaders of a number of countries, S. Kyprianou continued, including Egyptian President As-Sadat whom I informed that the airplane was returning to Cyprus and that I personally would deal with the matter. As-Sadat agreed to this.

The airplane arrived at Larnaca and at about the same time the airport authorities were asked permission to land by an Egyptian airplane which, it was said, had on board a member of the Egyptian Government. When it landed, President S. Kyprianou said, it turned out that it contained not the minister of Information and Culture but Egyptian "commandos."

S. Kyprianou stressed that the Cypriot Government has more than once drawn the attention of the Egyptian ambassador in Nicosia and the military attache of the Embassy to the fact that the Cypriot Government wants no interference in the liberation of hostages and arrest of terrorists. The Egyptians promised that no action would be taken without the knowledge of the Cypriot authorities.

At the moment when the agreement on the handing over of the criminals was to be implemented, S. Kyprianou said, a jeep drove out of the Egyptian aircraft and headed at great speed for the aircraft containing the hostages. The Egyptian attackers opened fire on it. One round was fired at the flight control tower, where I was at that time. Following this, the president noted, the Cypriot security forces had to intervene in order to restore order and the sovereign rights of the Cypriot state. Need one say that Egypt's action contradicts the UN General Assembly's decision on action in such cases. In connection with this we can only declare our sharp protest, S. Kyprianou stated.

It is evident from statements by Egyptian officials that this act of flagrant violation of the sovereignty of an independent state was carried out with the knowledge of the Egyptian authorities. This is shown in particular by the demand addressed to Cyprus by Egyptian Vice-President Mubarak that the terrorists be handed over to Egypt and the "commandos" returned home.

The president of Cyprus has informed UN Secretary General Waldheim of what has happened.

The Cypriot Government has announced that the criminals will be brought before the court today.

RESOLUTION LAUDS SOVIET ROLE, AAPSO CONDEMNS KILLING

LD191742Y Moscow TASS in English 1550 GMT 19 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Nicosia, February 19, TASS--The Presidium of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization (AAPSO) ended its sixth session here.

Session participants discussed a broad range of topical questions facing the Afro-Asian solidarity movement, giving special attention to the situation in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa area, the tasks of the struggles by the peoples of the two continents for peace, against imperialism, Zionism and reaction.

Thanks to the tireless activities of the Soviet Union and other peace-loving forces, says a resolution adopted by the session, the problem of disarmament, ensuring peace and security, turned into the central political problem of our time. The struggle for ending the arms race and for disarmament not only answers the interests of interstate relations, strengthening universal peace, but creates also favourable conditions for conducting the national liberation struggle by the peoples defending their independence and national rights.

The document strongly condemns the American plans to manufacture the neutron bomb and deploy it in West European countries. The AAPSO came out also against the turning of Asia and Africa into a testing ground for new weapons systems, as is being done by the FRG in Zaire.

On behalf of the Afro-Asian solidarity movement the session gave full support to the Soviet Union's peace initiatives.

A resolution on the Middle East notes that a Middle East settlement can only be reached by the complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied Arab territories and granting the legitimate rights of the Palestine Arab people. In this connection the AAPSO rejects any separate plans for a settlement and resolutely condemns the role assumed by the USA in this unseemly matter.

The resolution urges all Arab peoples, progressive and national-liberation forces of the area to strengthen unity, cohesion and cooperation, and to oppose in a united front the machinations of international imperialsim, Zionism and reaction.

At the concluding session the delegates paid tribute to the memory of the dastardly murdered AAPSO General Secretary Yusuf As-Siba'i. In his speech the head of the Soviet Afro-Asian solidarity committee's delegation Mirza Ibragimov strongly condemned this heinous crime as a provocation against the Afro-Asian people's solidarity movement.

Nuri 'Abd Ar-Razzaq (Iraq), formerly deputy general secretary, has been elected acting AAPSO general secretary.

USSR, CYPRUS SIGN CONSULAR CONVENTION IN NICOSIA 8 FEB

LD171435Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Feb 78 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[Text] TASS--A consular convention between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Cyprus was signed in Nicosia 8 February. The convention was signed by S.T. Astavin, USSR ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus, and Cyprus Foreign Minister I. Khristofidhis.

CONTINUING MATERIAL ON ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA CONFLICT

U.S. Stand

LD181408Y Moscow TASS in English 1404 GMT 18 Feb 78 LD

["Condemnation of U.S. Stand"--TASS headline]

[Text] Addis Ababa, February 18, TASS--Chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council of Ethiopia Mengistu Haile Mariam told U.S. Presidential Deputy Assistant for National Security Affairs D. Aaron, who arrived for a visit here, that peace in the Horn of Africa can be restored only on condition of immediate, full and unconditional withdrawal of Somali troops from the Ethiopian territory. He stressed in this connection the necessity of strict observance of the principles of the Charters of the United Nations organisation and the Organisation of African Unity, as well as the responsibility of the great powers for preserving and maintaining peace and for aid to the victims of aggression.

Washington, February 18, TASS--The Ethiopian Embassy in the USA has strongly condemned the provocative ballyhoo raised by Washingtin in connection with the presence in Ethiopia of Soviet and Cuban adviser and technical specialists invited by the Ethiopian Government. Addressing a press-conference here, Ethiopia's charge d'affaires to the USA, Tibabu Bekele, stressed that his government views the actions of the United States as crude interference in Ethiopia's internal affairs, as an attempt to limit the exercise of her sovereign rights.

Ethiopia, Tibabu Bekele said, rejects the attempts of the USA to order what states she should choose for her friends. "We known on whom we can rely ourselves at a difficult time, at a time of hardships and trials." The Ethiopian representative evaluated as "political and diplomatic support for the Somali aggression against Ethiopia the statement by U.S. President J. Carter that any violation of the Somali border by Ethiopia will be viewed by the United States as a threat to international peace. He especially noted that the U.S. President deemed it possible to make such a statement, in spite of the repeated official declarations by Ethiopia that she does not intend to attack Somalia. [quotation marks as received]

Various pronouncements by U.S. officials indicate that the USA has launched a campaign aimed at limiting the right of Ethiopia to defence from Somalia's unprovoked aggression, he said. While speaking at length on Ethiopia's possible aggression against Somalia, they at the same time remain tight-lipped on the present aggressive actions of Somalia. The Ethiopian representative stressed that his government does not believe that the claims of the USA that it allegedly does not supply arms to Somalia. These arms, he said, are shipped to Somalia via Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Washington, February 18, TASS--A spokesman for the U.S. State Department said in answer to the request for a comment on the report about the arrival in Somalia of ten ships from Iran with U.S. weapons aboard that if Somalia has U.S.-made weapons they are supplied not by the United States and not with its consent.

Mengistu Remarks

LD191433Y Moscow TASS in English 1324 GMT 19 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, February 19, TASS--Chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council of Ethiopia Mengistu Hailie Mariam stressed that the gains of the people's revolution, unity and state frontiers of Ethiopia cannot be the subject of discussion at the talks. There can be no peaceful talks as long as foreign troops remain in our lands, he stressed.

Addressing students of the military training centre "Genet", the chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council pointed to a great role of Ethiopia's Armed Forces in rebuffing the forces of internal and external reaction which are actively backed by world imperialism. The army together with the working people is fighting for reaching the country's goals: peace, democracy and socialism. He said in conclusion Ethiopia is inspired by the experience of states of the socialist community that firmly and consistently declare for the interests of the masses.

After a successful counter-offensive launched by the armed forces and units of the people's militia of Ethiopia against Somali invaders on the eastern front, thousands of peasants returned to their native places in the liberated areas of Hararge Province. The government gives great assistance to the population in repairing damaged housing, in replenishing the stock of cattle and preparations for sowing. Peasants' associations are formed in rural areas. According to preliminary data, the war unleashed by the expansionist circles of Mogadiscio caused to Ethiopia a damage to the sum of over 300 million dollars. Over 20 thousand people became homeless in the area of the town of Harar alone.

Ethiopian Envoy's Press Conference

LD181834Y Moscow in English to Africa 1630 GMT 18 Feb 78 LD

[Text] The Ethiopian ambassador to the Soviet Union, Col Tsegaye Meshesha, held a news conference for foreign and Soviet journalists in Moscow on Friday. Addressing the news conference, the ambassador described the situation in the Horn of Africa and accused the United States, NATO countries and the reactionary Arab regimes of the attempt to fan up and internationalize the armed conflict between Ethiopia and Somalia. He said the armed attack was carried out against his country at a time when the Ethiopian people secured certain victories in their revolutionary development.

The ambassador said this: [begin recording] The peasants, the workers and the intelligentsia of Ethiopia are now more than ever united to advance the gains, to consolidate the gains of the revolution. We have vowed never, never to return to the conditions that existed under the feudal bourgeoisie regime under Emperor Haile Selassie. [end recording]

Tsegaye Meshesha dwelt at length on the question of the complicity of the United States and the Western countries in the continuing aggression by the Somali regime. He said these countries wanted to reverse the positions of the aggressor and the victim so that a pretext could be found for internationalizing the conflict.

Col Tsegaye Meshesha also said: [begin recording] It (?has been) repeatedly said by Somali ambassadors here and there that the United States Government in particular sponsored this aggression by Somalia into Ethiopian territory. So there is no reason why we should not believe that the United States, Federal Republic of Germany and Great Britian are not behind the present state of affairs in the Horn of Africa. The meetings of the NATO countries in Washington [words indistinct] should have, must have condemned Somalia, rather than advocate a cease-fire when the enemy occupied Ethiopian territory. [end recording]

The ambassador refuted claims spread by the Western and the reactionary Arab propaganda that Ethiopia was preparing for an invasion of Somalia. He also made this point: [begin recording] The policy of the government is that we do not and we have no intention to cross the frontier with Somalia. My chairman has clearly told the world that we have no intention whatsoever to invade Somalia. We are simply fighting for our freedom, to drive the enemy out from our soil. Our principled friends that support us, the Charters of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity object to the crossing of frontiers by force and do not [words indistinct] territories from our neighboring countries. [end recording]

Commenting on the African policies of President as-Sadat, the ambassador denounced the Cairo regime for its policy of interfernece in the conflict in the Horn of Africa. President as-Sadat is sending roops and arms to Somalia, he said, in an open violation of the Organization of African Unity Charter. The internationalization of the conflict in the Horn of Africa threatens peace in the continent. We call on all the nations of the world not to let the conflict escalate. The ambassador told the newsmen that his government is in possession of facts proving that foreign mercenaries are being recruited in the West to take part in the war against Ethiopia. The imperialist powers use mercenaries wherever the war is on against the progressive regimes. The participation of mercenaries in the Somali-Ethiopian conflict should arouse the deep concern of revolutionary Ethiopia, of all the African countries and all the forces of peace and progress throughout the world. The ambassador also refuted the Western countries' claim that military units of the Soviet Union, Cuba and other socialist countries are fighting on the Ethiopia side against Somalia in the Ogaden region and against the Eritrean separatists in Ethiopia's north.

The ambassador also said this: [begin recording] We have really repeatedly said that there are no foreign troops- no foreign troops I say again--fighting alongside (?with) the Ethiopian Army forces. The only foreign troops that we know in our soil in Ogaden are the forces of Somalia and certain other Arab countries. I know for sure Egypt is one. [end recording]

In closing, the ambassador answered a question concerning the help that the Soviet Union and other socialist countries are giving to Ethiopia. He stressed the disinterested nature of that help, and said this in part: [begin recording] As to the help rendered by the socialist countries, my Chairman, Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam, has assessed this very highly and he has expressed his appreciation to the world community. In his speech he has stated it, broadcast in Ethiopia, (?stated) to the Ethiopian people. All of us assess the help rendered by the socialist countries very, very highly because it was rendered as a matter of principle at the time when we were victims of invasion and, as we know, and this is sure, the socialist countries want nothing in return for the help that they gave to the Ethiopian people. [end recording]

Egyptian Aid to Somalia

LD1814022 Moscow TASS in English 1339 GMT 18 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, February 18, TASS--The military aid given by Egypt to the Somali aggressor is crude interference in the internal affairs of the countries of the Horn of African, a violation of the basic principles of the Charters of the United Nations Organisation and the Organisation of African Unity, constitutes a grave threat to peace and security of independent Africa. A statement to this effect was made by Ethiopian Foreign Minister Feleke Gedle-Giorgis at the meeting with heads of diplomatic representations of the African states in Addis Ababa.

Egyptian President as-Sadat, the minister stressed, is acting as a tool of international imperialism undermining the sovereignty of the African states, and the present policy of Egypt, which is fraught with the most serious consequences, is viewed as aggression against the whole of black Africa.

The independent African states, Feleke Gedle-Giorgis went on to say, must display high vigilance and give a resolute rebuff to the intrigues of imperialism and its agents. The latest actions of the Egyptian authorities are evidence of the fact that the A.R.E. Government plays the role of a vanguard of the imperialist forces in preparing a large-scale offensive against the sovereignty of the African countries.

President as-Sadat, whose policy has caused a split among the Arab countries, is now trying to undermine the unity of the African states and weaken their resistance to the neocolonialist intrigues, the minister said in conclusion. His actions are tantamount to the striving to undermine the OAU. The statement made by As-Sadat in Washington shows that the A.R.E. president is ready to trade the independence, territorial integrity and stability of the African countries for U.S. weapons. In this he has full support from the U.S. Government.

Western Arms

LD172200Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1432 GMT 17 Feb 78 LD

[Text] New York--The NATO bloc countries and the reactionary regimes of the Near and Middle East are stepping up their deliveries of arms to the Somali Army, which is waging an aggressive war against Ethiopia. According to the UPI correspondent's report from the Somali capital, diplomatic circles in Mogadiscio claim that in the past 2 weeks large batches of arms, including 60 West German tanks, thousands of American, British and West German anti-aircraft rockets as well as a large number of antitank rockets have arrived in Somalia.

The reports point out that 2 weeks ago approximately 30 foreign ships, which had delivered arms to Somalia, were being unloaded in Somali ports. In an attempt to keep these operations secret, the local authorities sent the bulk of the ships to the port of Merca, which was previously a banana exporting base. However, Merca is not able to cope with the unloading work. Unloading operation can only be carried out under cover of night in the port of Mogadiscio. Diplomats state, the correspondent emphasizes, that the main supplier of these arms is Iran, which in the past 2 weeks has sent 10 ships loaded with mortars, ammunition for heavy artillery and anti-aircraft rockets.

Egypt has also sent ships carrying arms to Somalia, and 1 week ago it began sending daily supplies of ammunition and antitank rockets by air. The Egyptian military supplies were confirmed when an Egyptian transport plane carrying arms for the Somali Army was seized in Kenya's air space. In a number of NATO bloc countries, talks are underway on further deliveries of arms, including helicopters. The main bulk of military cargo for Somalia is financed by Saudi Arabia. UPI reports that the weapons intended for Somalia are packed in boxes without any markings in order to disguise them. The main work concerning the implementation of these operations is carried out in the French port of Marseilles and Cyprus. "The Somalis are getting everything they need," as the correspondent quotes the words uttered by an unnamed diplomat from one of the Arab countries.

Soviet, Cuban Personnel

LD171615Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Feb 78 p 5 LD

[Report by correspondent V. Korovikov: "The Ogaden Front"]

[Text] Dire Dawa-Harar--We had just arrived in the battle area. The program for the trip organized for a large group of foreign and local journalists included visits to two depots--exhibitions of weapons captured from Somali forces which invaded Ethiopia last July.

The first was in Dire Dawa, a large industrial and transport center which has been subjected to concentrated attacks by tank columns and motorized infantry three times since August. The wrecked control tower at the local airport, the shelled plant shops and gaping roofs of houses are evidence of the fierce battles for Dire Dawa. Units of the Ethiopian Army and people's militia held this city, which is of great importance to the country. The front has now moved back and lies 60 km from the city.

The second, literally "international" exhibition of arms was in Harar, the capital of the Province of the same name, the biggest in the country, which incorporates the semidesert area of Ogaden.

The battles for Harar were very fierce. Between October and January the Somali forces concentrated on capturing this historical and administrative center of eastern Ethiopia. The city was shelled many times. Somali patrols occasionally managed to penetrate almost as far as its streets. The repeated announcements on Radio Mogadiscio that the city was already in Somali hands were evidence of a desperate desire to take Harar. In the last 4 months the biggest battles of the Ogaden war have developed near Harar, especially along the highway linking it with the city of Jijiga.

And here we have the exhibition of weapons, trophies of the 6 months of battles on the occupied lands of Ethiopia. They are cast-iron proof that regular Somali Army units have been sent into Ethiopia armed with a variety of modern military equipment--from heavy tanks and large-caliber artillery to all manner of shells and automatic weapons. This is confirmed also by numerous documents--from fat ledgers containing lists of the soldiers, weapons and accoutrements of retreating subunits to officers' identification cards found on people killed in battle.

In recent months and weeks the weapons and equipment captured as trophies or left behind by retreating forces have included more and more articles freshly delivered from abroad: Piles of boxes of antitank mines from the depots of the Saudi Arabian Army and cartridges from Belgium and Italy. We see heavy mortars, air defense and antitank guns made in the West. They include American 127-mm antitank guns. The Somali aggressors are receiving a flood of weapons from all manner of sources.

The party spent a great deal of the day with the forward-positioned Ethiopian Armed Forces. We were taken about 50 km south of Harar along a dusty country road partly resurfaced by soldiers. Just beyond the city we saw the first trenches, cartridge cases scattered about the ground, black strips of scorched earth and burned-out shacks. Several times we came across smashed and burned-out tanks, armored transporters and trucks. In the rocky dry bed of a stream we saw the horrific traces of battle--human skeletons.

On our path to the front there lay just one small town--the regional center, Fedis. It was liberated about 3 weeks ago. Clearly there was a fierce battle here. The whole town is pitted and holed by bullets and shrapnel. The houses around the main square, which also served as the bazaar, are in ruins. Fedis has been severely hit, but the representatives of the local authorities have already appeared. The national flag is flying near the half-destroyed premises of the regional administration.

Some 15 km farther on we reach the forward positions. We are met by the commander of sector of the front, Col (Zbelu Kibret), and other officers. Their units had begun their offensive on 21 November almost from the walls of Harar. In 2 months of fighting they had covered more than 30 km. In the battles around Fedis the 96th People's Militia Brigade had distinguished itself by surrounding and destroying a Somali subunit.

It is now relatively quiet in this sector of the front. Patrols are active on the wide strip of "No Man's Land" carrying out reconnaissance, and Ethiopian units are preparing for a new advance, the colonel tells us. He believes that the Somali soldiers are demoralized following the recent defeats, their combat capability has dwindled considerably, whereas the Ethiopian soldiers' morale and ability to use modern weapons have increased substantially.

There is no continuous frontline in the Ogaden. The clashes usually occur along the highways and at natural barriers such as passes, rivers and mountain ridges. Often positions are separated by many kilometers, and artillery duels go on for weeks.

Colonel (Zbelu's) units have dug in alongside the highway leading deep into the Ogaden. Chains of gun emplacements at 1-1.5 meter intervals stretch at a right angle to the highway. They look like little twig huts. This is both camouflage and protection against the burning sun. The emplacements are occupied by regular soldiers and men from the people's militia. As the commander stressed, collaboration between these two main Ethiopian fighting contingents is becoming more and more effective.

We were told about the general situation at the front during a press conference by Colonel (Mulatu Negash), commander of the military secretariat, and (Lemma Kutema), chief administrator of Harar Province. Ethiopian units have not only held both of the big cities in this region but have even made a successful offensive in recent weeks. The Somalis have now had to retreat to a point 70 km east of Harar. From the north and the west we are advancing on the only city of any size still in enemy hands--Jijiga. However the war for the total liberation of occupied Ethiopian land and for the expulsion of the aggressors will be difficult and bloody.

The commander and chief administrator were asked amny questions. They included overtly provocative and hostile questions. Western propaganda is trying to distort the essence of the Ethiopian-Somali conflict. The West has recently been circulating the fabrications of Somali propaganda and fables about unknown Cuban and Soviet military units "participating" in battles in Ogaden.

"I must state quite categorically," Colonel (Mulatu) said, "that there are no Soviet or Cuban military formations in Ethiopia. Neither Cuban nor Soviet citizens are participating in the battles. We are getting assistance from the socialist countries who are backing our revolution. There are technical specialists and medical personnel in the country aiding the defense, economic and public health of Ethiopia, but the war against the aggressors is being waged by the Ethiopian people, their army and nobody else."

Chief administrator (Lemma Kutema) rebuked the hypocritical concern of the American administration and Arab reactionaries for Somalia's "security." In reply to a U.S. radio correspondent, he said:

Somali forces continue to occupy about one-fifth of my motherland's territory. Why do the newspapers and radio corporations which claim to be objective and peace-loving holler all the time about the danger allegedly threatening the aggressor? Why don't they oppose him? Everyone knows that this is direct support for the aggressors, a propaganda smokescreen to justify interference in this conflict, for more and more deliveries of various kinds of weapons and for the dismemberment of Ethiopia and liquidation of the current revolutionary regime. We are bound to regard this policy which the United States is pursuing as dangerous and hostile toward our country.

A trip to the Ethiopian front proves that people who have only recently destroyed an age-old feudal and monarchic system have enough strength and will uphold the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the motherland and to continue the progressive transformations.

ETHIOPIAN STATEMENT ON DETAINED KENYAN PLANES NOTED

LD171602Y Moscow TASS in English 1525 GMT 17 Feb 78 LD

["A Gross Interference"--TASS headline]

[Text] London, February 16, TASS--The Ethiopian Embassy in Britain circulated a statement in connection with an act of air piracy by the Egyptian authorities that quite unfoundedly detained two Kenyan passenger airliners which were on ordinary scheduled flights. That was done by Cairo in retaliation for the detaining by fighter planes of the Kenyan Air Force of an Egyptian transport aircraft with a cargo of ammunition for Somalia. The aircraft illegally intruded into the air space of the Republic of Kenya.

The Embassy of Ethiopia describes the actions of the Egyptian authorities as a glaring interference by the As-Sadat regime on whose instruction the air space of other African countries is violated. The embassy is calling on the Organization of African Unity to condemn those actions.

The statement emphasizes that if an end is not immediately put to an interference by Egypt and such reactionary Arab regimes as, for example, Saudi Arabia in the internal affairs of independent African states, the conflict in the area of the Horn of Africa will assume an unprecedented scope.

The embassy's statement also points out that the United States sells arms to Egypt, in particular for the purpose of expanding the scope of the Somali aggression against Ethiopia.

According to latest reports, the planes captured by both sides were exchanged as a result of talks between representatives of Kenya and Egypt.

SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA MAKES PROBLEM 'MORE ACUTE'

LD202254Y Moscow in English to South Africa 1850 GMT 20 Feb 78 LD

[Commentary by observer Aleksandr Fedorov]

[Text] The just-ended talks between Ian Smith and the three Africa leaders, Muzorewa, Sithole and Chirau, are an event that has been given much publicity. Yet it failed to make the nation jubilant. This is not because the juggler was preparing much too long for his trick and let the spectators (?guess his pretence). This is because everyone knew in advance how the trick would end.

Let's now approach the deal from the standpoint of simple arithmetic: Smith and his partners agreed that of the 100 seats in the planned parliament 28 will be held by the white settlers, who will be able to block any legislation coming through the parliament. But even if all the 100 seats were assigned to the Africans that would hardly change anything. The point is that the expression of the people's free will is to be controlled by the present repressive machinery. As the agreement envisages, this machinery will constitute the core of the future armed forces. To imagine that under such order of things real champions of Africa interests will get to parliament will be just as hard as to see Ian Smith playing the role of that champion.

It's hardly worth while examining other details of the agreement for it doesn't offer a genuine solution of the constitutional problem in the country. For Ian Smith the agreement is another opportunity to keep in power with the help of the puppets who, for their part, hope to get near to that power. This all suits very well the authors of the Anglo-American plan for Rhodesia. The United States and Britain have been in a hurry to make this clear. The only question that bothers the Rhodesian population today is what will come next. Up to now the white farmer used slave-owner methods to force the African to work for that farmer and thus that farmer would get rich on cheap African labor. Today the same farmer will use the same methods to force the African to do a backbreaking job for the sake of a so-called independent African republic. What will come next, probably ask the workers of the Messina Transvaal Association. In January it cut down the output of copper ore and fired half of the workers, after declaring that it was not able to withstand the economic sanctions. The rest of the workers will obviously face the same fate, since economic sanctions will remain when independence on Smith's pattern is declared. What will come next, probably will ask the Rhodesians serving in today's self-defense force and those who will be recruited there additionally. Bishop Muzorewa pledged that the guerrilla war would stop after the agreement was reached. That pledge cost him nothing, for he and his partners have no guerrillas. As for the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, it will continue fighting until genuine independence is won, and the African population sides with the Patriotic Front. The Salisbury agreement has brought no solution to the constitutional problem. It only made it more acute. The present situation in Rhodesia can well be compared to the situation of 1965, when Ian Smith declared independence unilaterally. The local population has been protesting against UDI for 13 years. Earlier there were hopes that the cabinet will display a realistic approach and will stand by its promise to introduce Africa majority rule. These hopes were dispelled following the agreement with the three African leaders. The conclusion comes by itself that the constitutional problem in Rhodesia can be solved with the help of the armed struggle alone.

TRADE DIFFICULTIES MARK COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE

OW1817llY Moscow in English to Australia and New Zealand 0800 GMT 18 Feb 78 OW

[Igor Bestushev commentary]

[Text] Our listeners of course know that the heads of states who had gathered at the conference in Sydney unanimously condemned the terrorist act near the Hilton Hotel when 2 persons were killed and 10 wounded. They called for rooting out terrorism and preventing such actions from ever happening again. Such unanimity on the issue does credit to the conference. The spread of terrorism in Australia will do no good either to the country or to the region of which it is a party. And one can only agree with those people in Australia who say that terrorism will only increase tension and lead to new unnecessary casualties.

The countries also discussed cooperation in energy development and struggle against narcotic smugglers and against (?terrorism). The discussion resulted in the setting up of work groups.

However, those problems examined at the conference in a spirit of (?improving) cooperation were not the main ones. The listeners of course know what the key issue was--it was trade and economic relations.

Was the debate constructive? Unfortunately, it's hard to give an affirmative answer to that.

As you remember, the Australian prime minister, Malcolm Fraser, came out with very sharp criticism of the protectionism of the Common Market, the United States and Japan. He called the attention of the other participants in the conference to the fact that those countries were setting up customs barriers in the way of other countries' goods. They also seek to overcome economic depressions at the expense of the economically weaker trade partners. Such a policy, Mr Fraser said, inevitably leads to greater inflation and worsening of other forms of depression in Australia and a number of countries.

Does that statement by the Australian prime minister have any grounds? Yes, it does. Take for instance the meat industry in Australia.

Only recently its development was stimulated by the growing demand on meat in the United States, Japan and the Common Market countries. The Australian farmers were in every way encouraged to expand meat production. They were told clearly that there will be an unlimited market for their goods. And the Australian cattlemen put all their free money into the meat industry. What's more, many took big loans (?from) the banks. And now as you know they have no money to repay them.

Import of Australian meat to the United States and Japan has been sharply restricted. As for the Common Market countries, they have gone even further and have almost fully stopped buying Australian farm produce. The Common Market is also restricting ever more greater the import of non-farm goods from Australia. A latest indication of that is the higher duty placed on Australian steel by the countries of the European Economic Community. And that of course can only lead to drastic reduction of export of Australian steel and steel goods to Western Europe. Australia already has an unfavorable trade balance as regards those goods. Last year, for instance, it exported to the Common Market countries less than 1.3 billion American dollars worth of steel products. At the same time, it imported similar goods from the Commonwealth countries to a sum of more than 13.6 billion dollars.

It is, of course, impossible to deny the charges made by Mr Fraser. Nevertheless, at the conference in Sydney his partners actually failed to support him in the struggle against the protectionism of the Common Market, the United States and Japan. Why? Because in Singapore and Malaysia there's the same reaction to Australian protectionism as in Canberra to the protectionism of the Common Market countries.

The fact remains that it is the strongest who dominate in trade relations of the capitalist countries. And if in relations with the European Economic Community Australia is the weak one, in its own region it acts from the position of strength. But apparently that position brings not only dividends. In this particular case, it resulted in the refusal of Australia's neighbors to support it in the struggle against the stronger trade partners.

As you probably know Australia, New Zealand and other countries of the region [words indistinct] establish and develop trade and economic relations with the USSR and other socialist countries. One reason is that those countries conduct economic cooperation among themselves and also with the capitalist countries on the basis of equality and mutual advantage. Many economics in the West propose developing trade relations among the capitalist countries on the same basis. Similar ideas were expressed by many participants at the Commonwealth regional conference in Sydney. But there's hardly any hope for making healthier economic contacts in the capitalist world because in the long run they are determined by the monopolies, and they will never give up such methods as dictate, pressure and the desire to gain one-sided advantages.

Commonwealth Meeting Ends

LD171518Y Moscow TASS in English 1413 GMT 17 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 17. TASS--TASS commentator Leonid Ponomarev writes:

A regional conference of the heads of government of twelve Commonwealth countries in Southeast Asia and Oceania came to a close in Sydney on Thursday. During the work of the four-day forum they discussed, as is clear from the final communique, a number of matters pertaining to the political and economic situation in the region as well as some problems of the world economy and trade.

The conference was called on an initiative of Australia which strives for the establishment of a certain economic and political centre in the region, like a West European Common Market, which would enable it to restructure its economic ties. The matter is that Australia's traditional partners in the West--the United States and EEC countries--increasingly limit the import of Australian manufacturers and farm products, thereby creating serious difficulties for the Australian economy. The participants in the regional conference, however, went further than this unilateral approach of Australia to the problems of economic exchanges.

It is obvious from the communique that during the conference the question of economic ties was touched upon in a wider aspect, namely, in the context of necessity to establish a new international economic order. Such demands are being advanced lately by the developing countries at many international important forums. The demands manifested themselves, in particular, in a number of documents of the U.N. General Assembly, including the declaration on the establishment of a new international economic order. The declaration was adopted by the sixth special session of the U.N. General Assembly.

The developing countries' actions to implement the declaration's principles are supported by the countries of the socialist community.

The participants in the conference considered a number of important international problems including the situation in the Middle East, in the African Continent's south, and the problems of Southeast Asia.

The question of the Indian Ocean was one of major matters which are of vital importance for the countries participating in the conference. The participants in the Sydney forum, as the communique points out, expressed the hope that practical steps will be made to turn the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace. The idea meets with a wide support among the peoples of littoral countries which demand elimination of all foreign bases in the Indian Ocean and the creation of a climate of trust and cooperation in the region.

The participants in the regional conference decided to set up a number of working groups including those on matters of trade, energy, and on combatting drug addiction.

EEC LIMITS ON STEEL IMPORTS DISMAY AUSTRALIA

LD171956Y Moscow TASS in English 1940 GMT 17 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Canberra, February 17, TASS--The Government of Australia expressed "grave disappointment" against the Common Market's decision to impose antidumping duties on Australian steel export. The move of the EEC, as stated by Douglas Anthony, the minister of trade and natural resources of Australia, will undermine trade relationships between Australia and the Common Market.

Australia has more than once before expressed dissatisfaction with the restrictive measures imposed by the EEC countries on the import of Australian grain and milk products. These customs barriers have reduced the sales of Australian meat in the Common Market countries almost 90 per cent, from more than 100,000 tons in 1973 to 10,000 tons in 1977. The current protectionist measure of the "inner nine" threatens to aggravate even further the economic contradictions between the EEC and Australia.

SOVIET VETERANS DELEGATION RETURNS TO MOSCOW

LD201359Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Feb 78 p 3 LD

[Text] TASS--A delegation of the Soviet Committee of War Veterans, headed by retired Adm S.Ye. Zakharov, has returned to Moscow from a trip to the Philippines.

The delegation was received by Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, and also by Gen Romeo Espino, chief of staff of the country's Armed Forces and president of the Philippine Federation of Veterans.

The members of the delegation visited World War II battlesites and familiarized themselves with the activity of veterans' organizations.

In the course of meetings and talks, representatives of the Soviet Committee of War Veterans and the Philippine Federation of Veterans expressed approval of further development of relations between Soviet and Philippine war veterans.

CAMBODIA INDIFFERENT TO SRV PEACE PROPOSALS

LD171519Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Feb 78 Morning Edition p4 LD

[B. Vasilyev commentary: "Vietnam's Constructive Efforts"]

[Text] The world press is continuing to devote much attention to reports on the continuing armed clashes on the border between the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV] and Democratic Cambodia. The incursions into Vietnamese territory by subunits of the Cambodian Army, which began in 1975 and have become much more frequent in recent months, have resulted, as is known, in tragic consequences whose victims have primarily been the peaceful population of the border regions. On the long-suffering land of Indochina, to which long-awaited peace came after the many years of the bloody anti-imperialist struggle, bombs and shells are once again exploding, houses are again collapsing and people dying.

The alarming events on the Vietnamese-Cambodian border attest that a dangerous hotbed of tension threatening peace and the peoples' security has arisen over a vast territory in Southeast Asia (the border between the two countries extends for more than 1,100 km).

This is why all world public opinion has greeted with tremendous satisfaction the SRV Government's appeal for this dangerous hotbed of tension to be liquidated by means of peaceful talks--an appeal dictated by lofty humane aims and meeting the interests of both the Vietnamese and the Khmer peoples. As is known, the SRV Government made this proposal back on the eve of the new year, receiving no reply to it from the Phnom Penh authorities. However, faced with further activation of border provocations on the part of the Cambodian Army, the SRV Government again issued a statement on 5 February on the normalization of relations between the two countries. It formulated a clear and constructive program for the liquidation of the conflict based on Vietnam's immutable principled position--resolutely to defend the independence, freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity of its country and also to respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of both Cambodia and other countries.

The new SRV Government statement has been greeted with valid optimism by the international public. It has inspired hope that the sensible call for disputed border problems to be resolved at the negotiating table will at last be heeded by the Cambodian Government. For surely it is clear that the continuation of the conflict merely plays into the hands of supporters of the exacerbation of international tension and the forces of imperialism and reaction.

Unfortunately, the Cambodian authorities, as the foreign press reports, have rejected Vietnam's constructive new proposals too. Such stubbornness convincingly shows who is really to blame for the situation which has now been created and who is the initiator of the further kindling of the conflict.

Everyone to whom the cause of peace is dear fully approves the peace-loving steps of the Government of Socialist Vietnam. They see the peace talks which it proposes as the only sensible way to settle border disputes.

WISH TO MILITARIZE BEHIND ROK MOVE TO JOIN ASEAN

LD160952Y Moscow TASS in English 0655 GMT 16 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Tokyo, February 15, TASS--According to reports from Seoul the South Korean regime intends to institute an advisory body at the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to prepare ground for South Korea's entry into that organization as a full member. The attempts by the dictatorial regime of Pak Chong-hui to penetrate the ASEAN are designed not only to get access to the great raw material resources of the member countries--Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore--but also to use their economic potential for a further militarisation of South Korea. It is in place to recall in this connection that the Seoul regime is an active military ally of the United States which entangled Southeast Asia including the territory of South Korea itself with a network of military bases.

South Korea's accession to the ASEAN would undoubtedly link the organization with the Pentagon's military machinery in Southeast Asia and would turn it into a link of U.S. global strategy which leans on military blocs and pacts. It would meet the plans of imperialist circles which seek to push the ASEAN on to a road leading to its conversion into a military bloc, and to link it with their policy of anti-communism and militarism. This is particularly manifest lately after the inglorious collapse of the aggressive military bloc of SEATO.

Meanwhile, the leaders of ASEAN countries state that they do not want to create a military bloc but are aiming to expand economic cooperation among the members of the organization and make the region a zone of peace and neutrality.

It is quite evident that a peaceful future of the ASEAN is incompatible with the establishment of closed military-political groupings, the existence of foreign military bases and confrontation of states. The public at large of Southeast Asian countries consider that the ASEAN can bring a positive contribution to the development of the region not along the lines of increasing military activities but only on the road of mutually beneficial cooperation in the interests of peace and social progress.

U.S. TO INCREASE MILITARY AID TO SOUTH KOREA

LD191228Y Moscow TASS in English 1213 GMT 19 Feb 78 LD

["Repressive regime supported"--TASS headline]

[Text] New York, February 19, TASS--The Pentagon plans to build up further the U.S. Air Force in South Korea. The newspaper Washington POST writes that the U.S. Department of Defence has worked out for this purpose a special programme planned for four-five years ahead. The newspaper writes that at least a dozen of "F-4" fighter bombers will be sent to South Korea in the months ahead to supplement three squadrons of such planes that are already in South Korea.

Speaking at a press conference at Honolulu, Hawaii, the U.S. defence secretary, Harold Brown, said that the planned increase of the U.S. Air Force in the Korean Peninsula will be a confirmation of the U.S. commitment to ensure South Korea's security. He also said that the presence of considerable U.S. Air Force there will serve as a kind of compensatory measure in the light of the plans to withdraw from South Korea a part of U.S. land forces.

The New York TIMES writes that in the next five years the United States Government plans to implement a programme of military aid to Seoul to the sum of about two billion dollars as credits and free of charge deliveries of armaments. In the 1979 financial year alone, Washington intends to spend for these purposes 227 million dollars and also to grant South Korea 59 million dollars for economic needs.

All these plans show that the United States does not intend to end all-round support for the puppet Seoul regime, one of the most repressive regimes in the world. This exposes again the hypocrisy of assertions of official Washington about its "concern" with the state of affairs in the sphere of human rights in other countries.

JAPAN'S SOCIALIST PARTY PUBLISHES ACTION PROGRAM

LD200848Y Moscow TASS in English 0821 GMT 20 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Tokyo, February 20, TASS--The draft of the action programme of the Socialist Party of Japan for the year ahead has been published here. The draft will be submitted to the regular 42nd Congress of the Socialist Party of Japan, the leading party of the parliamentary opposition, to be held in March. The draft action programme envisages stepping up of the activity of the Socialist Party of Japan for protection of vital interests and rights of the working people and for widening the struggle against the Japanese-American security treaty and the unconstitutional Self-Defence Forces.

LDP ATTEMPTS TO REMOVE 'OBSTACLES' TO MILITARIZATION

LD171040Y Moscow TASS in English 0943 GMT 17 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Tokyo, February 17, TASS--TASS correspondent Gennadiy Rakhovetskiy reports:

The head of Japan's National Defence Agency, Shin Kanemaru, spoke at a meeting of the Budget Commission of the House of Representatives of the Japanese parliament and demanded the speediest creation in parliament of a special commission on questions of defence "to determine the size and equipment of the Self-Defence Forces".

Commenting on this fact, the newspaper AKAHATA writes today that it reveals an intention of long-standing of the government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party to utilize the creation of such a commission to attain "national accord" concerning the unrestricted building-up of the armed forces.

Clearly manifesting itself lately is the escalation of the militaristic ambitions of Japan's ruling circles that are encouraged by the United States, which persistently press for an intensification of Japan's military role in the Far East and in Southeast Asia.

One after another and under various pretexts, representatives of the Japanese Government and the Liberal Democratic Party are campaigning for a strengthening of the Self-Defence Forces, for expanding the military industry, and want to revise the peaceful provisions of the Japanese Constitution. These actions are acquiring the scope of a broad political campaign.

The demand to create in Parliament a "special commission on defence questions" is a new link in this campaign.

It is directed at a further legalization of the Self-Defence Forces and at glossing over their anticonstitutional nature. The Japanese ruling circles plan to use the parliamentary rostrum to neutralize public opinion in the country, which condemns the arms race, and to eliminate obstacles standing in the way of the dangerous plans of accelerating militarization.

JAPAN'S CONSTITUTION DISTORTED TO ALLOW MILITARY GROWTH

LD171255Y Moscow TASS in English 1248 GMT 17 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 17, TASS--TASS commentator Viktor Zatsepin writes:

The Japanese Government has taken a dangerous step towards open militarization by interpreting the country's Constitution in its own way as regards military issues.

Under the Constitution of 1947 Japan renounced war and armaments. Article nine of the Constitution says: Sincerely striving for international peace...the Japanese people renounces war for all times as a sovereign right of the nation as well as the threat of or use of armed forces as a means of settling international disputes. Therefore, land, sea and air force, as well as other means of warfare, shall never be created.

The wording is clear and explicit. The text of the Constitution allows no misinterpretation.

This, however, does not suit the book of some Japanese leaders who decided thirty years after the adoption of the Constituion to specify "some of its military aspects." And then a special document is born, approved by all the cabinet ministers and ingeniously called in this connection consensus as regards the limits of self-defence. The Constitution, the document says, bans only such means of warfare which exceed the minimum necessary for self-defense.

Not a single word is said in the consensus about who is entitled to determine this minimum, what its level is, and how it is to be tallied with the Constitution in force now. Moreover, the authors of the document openly say that the limits of Japanese Armed Forces may change depending on a change in the international situation, development of military equipment and other factors.

This unusual interpretation of the country's fundamental law was unanimously evaluated by Japan's democratic forces as an attempt of the Japanese ruling circles to give a green light to the country's dangerous militarization, which is gaining momentum. And this evaluation is just.

It must be noted that even before the publication of the latest document, Japan's Armed Forces vaguely termed in the Japanese press until now as Self-Defence Forces are fitted out with the latest military equipment, which is far from being of a defensive character. It has tanks, heavy artillery, missiles and airforce. The country has 2,450 military bases and installations. From 1960 to 1970 Japan's military spendings trebled from 160,000 million to 569,500 million yen a year.

A total of 12,600,000 million yen are to be spent on military needs in the five-year plan period beginning this year, which is twice as much as in the preceding five-year plan period.

Japan's militaristic circles are openly pushing the country onto a dangerous path fraught with grave consequences both for Japan and for the security of the Asian region as a whole. This dangerous path runs counter to the profound striving of the Japanese people for peace.

MIKHAIL SUSLOV PRESENTS ORDER OF VICTORY TO BREZHNEV

LD201056Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 20 Feb 78 LD

[Text] The Order of Victory was presented today to Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, chairman of the USSR Defense Council and Marshal of the Soviet Union, in a festive atmosphere in the Kremlin. Comrade Brezhnev has earned this high military order for his great contribution to the victory of the Soviet people and their armed forces in the Great Patriotic War, for his outstanding services to strengthening the country's defense capability and to drawing up and consistently implementing the Soviet state's foreign policy of peace, which reliably guarantees the peaceful development of the country.

Present at the award presentation were CPSU Central Committee Politburo members Andropov, Grishin, Kirilenko, Kosygin, Kulakov, Kunayev, Mazurov, Pelshe, Suslov, Ustinov; CPSU Central Committee candidate Politburo members Aliyev, Demichev, Kuznetsov, Ponomarev, Solomentsev, Chernenko; CPSU Central Committee secretaries Dolgikh, Zimyanin, Ryabov, Rusakov; deputy chairmen of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Council of Ministers; members of the Collegium of the USSR Ministry of Defense; prominent military chiefs; war veterans; responsible employees of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Supreme Soviet.

During the presentation of the order to Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, a speech was made by Mikhail Andreyevich Suslov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and CPSU Central Committee secretary. He said: [announcer read]

Dear comrades, I have been given the very pleasant task of acting on behalf of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and presenting Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, our comrade and friend, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, chairman of the USSR Defense Council and marshal of the Soviet Union, with this great military award--the Order of Victory.

Dear Leonid Ilich, this high award marks your great contribution to the victory of the Soviet people and their armed forces in the Great Patriotic War. It also marks your outstanding services to strengthening the country's defense capability and to drawing up and consistently implementing the Soviet state's foreign policy of peace, which reliably guarantees the country's peaceful development.

The presentation of this great military order to you, Leonid Ilich, on the eve of the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy is deeply symbolic and natural. In the course of many years, your life has been insolubly tied to the valiant history of the armed forces. As an army political worker, you traversed the fiery path of the Great Patriotic War front from its difficult beginning to the victorious end. You took part in the bloody fighting on the legendary Malaya Zemliya, in the wars for the Ukraine and the Caucasus, for the liberation of Romania, Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia. Always in the front with the warriors and setting an example of unshakeable staunchness and daring, you inspired them to heroic deeds for the glory of the Soviet motherland.

You, Leonid Ilich, know well the dear price of the victory gained, the supreme value of peace for our people and all peoples. In the persistent, uncompromising struggle for stable peace on our planet, waged by the Soviet Union together with the fraternal socialist countries and other peaceloving forces on the international arena, your voice--the voice of a man who had gone through the crucible of war--resounds with special force and passion.

Comrade, as the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and the chairman of the [illegible] Council, you, Leonid Ilich, have always shown and continue to show a truly Leninist care for the reliable defense of our socialist fatherland, and for the strengthening of the Soviet Armed Forces, which are standing guard over peace and country's security. The fact that entire generations of Soviet people have already grown up without experiencing the horrors of war is the great victory of the party and people. You, dear Leonid Ilich, have made your outstanding contribution to it. At this festive moment, we, your comrades in work, experience great joy and pride. We warmly and cordially greet you, dear Leonid Ilich, on this high award. From the bottom of our hearts, we wish you good health, inexhaustible creative forces, new successes in the very difficult, fruitful and indefatigable activity to the benefit of the communist party and the Soviet state, and in the name of the triumph of communism.

Accompanied by tumultuous and prolonged applause, Comrade Suslov decorated Comrade Brezhnev with one of the highest military awards: the Order of Victory.

Brezhnev Reply

LD010658Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 20 Feb 78 LD

[Text of reply speech by Leonid Brezhnev at Order of Victory ceremony in the Kremlin on 20 February--announcer read]

[Text] Dear comrades and friends: It is easy to understand my feelings now. For me, a man who went through the entire war from beginning to end, and who since then has been constantly connected with the life of our armed forces, the order of victory is a very honorable award and one which moves me deeply. I am grateful from the bottom of my heart to our party, its Central Committee and the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium for the award.

In accepting this award, I think, above all, of my comrades in arms--soldiers, sailors, officers and generals. All those with whom I went side by side through the war, and with whom victory was reached, come to life in my memory. Victory was the greatest achievement of our people. The entire population, both great and small, rejoiced on 9 May 1945, and literally at once, our party and the Soviet Government put on the agenda the task of a stable peace settlement--a settlement which needed to draw a line under the war just ended. However, tremendous efforts were needed in order to strengthen the victory achieved at such immeasurably great cost. It took 30 years to have the inviolability of the postwar borders recognized by Europe and also by the United States and Canada. And this is really what strengthening the results of victory means.

In defending the homeland and fighting against fascism, our soldiers and our Soviet people were thinking of peace. We fought so that there would be no more infernos of war. We fought so that mothers would not weep for their sons. We fought to defend their right to life, peaceful labor and happiness.

Our party and people have been, are and will always be true to the cause of peace. For us, the defense of peace means the defense of socialism, the bright future of all mankind.

I want to speak here about one particular and very important aspect of our efforts for peace: strengthening the defensive capacity of the land of the soviets. I am proud, comrades, that I am receiving this most exalted award on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of our Soviet Army, our Red Army born in the fire of October. The party is doing everything possible to insure that our country's defense is at the necessary level. But in strengthening our armed forces, we in no way exceed the actual requirements of our security and the security of our socialist friends. We threaten no one; we force our will on no one.

If detente continues, if other states are prepared for disarmament, we shall not hold things up. We persistently, consistently and more actively every year seek approaches to a solution of this problem, going as far as the most radical--universal and complete disarmament.

Dear comrades and friends: I should like to assure you, and through you all communists and all Soviet people, that I shall continue in the future, as I have done throughout my conscious life, to take the great ideas of Lenin, the ideas of communism, my guiding star. Like each member of our party, I have no higher interest than the good of the people, the good of the homeland.

SHCHERBITSKIY RECEIVES CONGRATULATIONS ON 60TH BIRTHDAY

AU1720457 Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 17 Feb 78 AU

[Text] Today Ukrainian CP Central Committee Politburo members and candidates members Comrades Borsenko, Botvin, Vatchenko, Vashchenko, Lyashko, Petr Leontiyevich Pogrebnyak, Sokolov, Sologub, Titarenko, Fedorchuk, Gerasimov, Dobrik, Kachura, Malanchuk and Yakov Petrovich Pogrebnyak cordially congratulated CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian CP Central Committee First Secretary Comrade Shcherbitskiy on his 60th birthday and on his award of the Order of the October Revolution.

In recognition of the long and fruitful activity in organizing the Ukraine's communists and all working people in implementing the plans for communist construction and on the occasion of his 60th birthday, the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium awarded Vladimir Vasilevich Shcherbitskiy an honorary certificate of the organization.

During the presentation ceremony, Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium Chairman Comrade Vatchenko said: What each of us thinks and feels at this solemn moment has been expressed in the warm and cordial congratulations from the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and Council of Ministers, from the Ukrainian CP Central Committee, Supreme Soviet Presidium and Council of Ministers, and in the numerous congratulatory messages addressed to you. As CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian CP Central Committee first secretary, you have devoted your entire will, great experience and fervent energies to the development and prosperity of the Soviet Ukraine as an integral component part of the great Soviet Union, and to the cause of the Leninist party and the Soviet people.

Ukrainian CP Central Committee Politburo members and candidate members emphasized that they were glad to work under Comrade Shcherbitskiy's direct guidance and to accomplish daily complex and responsible tasks set by the Communist Party and its combat headquarters, the Central Committee, with CPSU Central Committee General Secretary and USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Chairman Leonid Ilich Brezhnev at the head.

Cordially thanking for the awards and congratulations, Comrade Shcherbitskiy pointed out that he was deeply moved by the congratulations from the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and Council of Ministers, and from the Ukrainian CP Central Committee, Supreme Soviet Presidium and Council of Ministers, which bind to work even better and to dedicate all knowledge and experience to the party and the people. The fatherland's high award, the Order of the October Revolution, and the warm wishes addressed to me, he said, will be fully passed on to the Soviet Ukraine's communists and to all working people who contributed a worthy part toward the cause of building communism.

Vladimir Vasilyevich Shcherbitskiy spoke about the great work which is to be done by the republic's communists and working people to implement the 25th CPSU Congress decisions and to accomplish the tasks set by the CPSU Central Committee and its Politburo headed by the indefatigable continuer of the great Leninist cause, Comrade Brezhnev. Our strength, he emphasized, lies in collective leadership, in cohesion and in unity between ideas and acts. The source of our achievements and the guarantee of future successes lie in loyalty to Lenin's legacy, in the inviolable link with the people and the masses, and in increasing the communists vanguard role in all fields of economic and cultural construction.

In recognition of the great services in developing friendship and close cooperation between the CPCZ and the CPSU, between the Czechoslovak and the Soviet peoples, and on the occasion of the 60th birthday, CSSR President Gustav Husak awarded the Order of Victorious February to the CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian CP Central Committee first secretary.

Today, the CSSR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Soviet Union, Jan Havelka, presented the award to Vladimir Vasilyevich Shcherbitsky. The ambassador also delivered a congratulatory message from Gustav Husak, CPCZ Central Committee general secretary and CSSR president. The presentation ceremony was attended by CSSR Consul General Oldrich Mohelsky.

Comrade Shcherbitskiy expressed cordial gratitude for the high award and the warm congratulations. He said he will continue to do his utmost to develop and strengthen friendship and cooperation between the fraternal parties and peoples. He wished the CSSR working people new successes in the construction of a developed socialist society.

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Vladimir Vaslyevich Shcherbitskiy was congratulated by consuls general from a number of other socialist states.

Vladimir Vasil Shcherbitskiy was also congratulated by representatives of the Lenin arsenal plant in Kiev. The plant's director, (Gusovskiy) party committee secretary, Pilipenko, engineer Berezenko and socialist labor heroes and brigade leaders Donchenko and Shcherbina on behalf of the workers collective conveyed Vladimir Vasilyevich ardent congratulations and sincere wishes of good health and further successes in the muiltiform activity for the benefit of the socialist fatherland.

CPSU Central Committee First Secretary and USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Chairman Comrade Brezhnev received his first worker's training at the Dzerzhinskiy plant in Dneprodzerzhinsk. A number of party figures and statesmen made the first steps in their active lives at this plant. On behalf of the renowned collective, Vladimir Vasilyevich Shcherbitskiy, who worked at the enterprise as party committee secretary, was warmly congratulated by the plant's director Gustav, and party committee secretary, Ivanin. They bestowed Comrade Shcherbitskiy the honorary title of Dzerzhinka Veteran.

Comrade Shcherbitskiy was also congratulated by members of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium and Council of Ministers, ministerial and departmental leaders, bureau members of Kiev Gorkom and obkom, members of Kiev Gorispolkom and oblispolkom, Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee secretaries, representatives of the Soviet Army and Navy, scientists and cultural workers.

Vladimir Vasilyevich Shcherbitskiy expressed his sincere thanks for the congratulations and good wishes.

SOLOMENTSEV CONVEYS BREZHNEV GREETINGS TO WORKERS MEETING

LD201212Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 20 Feb 78 LD

[Text] The All-Russian Conference of Workers of Industry, Agriculture, Construction, Transportation and Services began in Moscow today. Solomentsev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, opened the conference.

It is with a feeling of deep satisfaction, he said, that I am carrying out the instruction of Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and conveying cordial greetings on his behalf, to the RSFSR workers, peasants, intelligentsia, the participants in the conference, on the occasion of the honorable award for the socialist competition successes. Comrade Brezhnev greets the workers of autonomous republics, krays and oblasts, towns and rayons, workforces of enterprises and organizations who have been awarded the red banner. He wishes all great successes in implementing the 10th 5-year plan programs, good health, prosperity and happiness.

Novikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, made a report. He then proceeded to award the RSFSR the Challenge Red Banners of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU and the Komsomol Central Committee.

PELSHE ATTENDS PEOPLE'S CONTROL MEETING IN TBILISI

LD172134Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1700 GMT 17 Feb 78 LD

[Text] A meeting of workers and activists of the organs of people's control, with the participation of representatives of the working people and public, has been held in Tbilisi. The meeting, devoted to the 60th anniversary of the organs of control in the Soviet state, was attended by Pelshe, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the CPSU control committee; Ryabov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Sizov, chairman of the CPSU Central Auditing Commission. A report was delivered by Shkolnikov, chairman of USSR People's Control Committee.

KUZNETSOV PRESENTS AWARDS IN 17 FEB KREMLIN CEREMONY

LD171410Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1130 GMT 17 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpts] Awards were handed over at a presentation ceremony at the Kremlin today. The award-bearers were congratulated on behalf of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the Soviet Government and Comrade Brezhnev personally by Kuznetsov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. He wished the recipients further successes at work for the benefit of the homeland.

GRISHIN SPEAKS AT RED BANNER PRESENTATION CEREMONY

LD172014Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1750 GMT 17 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow has been presented with the Challenge Red Banner of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU and the Komsomol Central Committee.

At the solemn gathering devoted to the presentation of this lofty award to the city, a speech was made by Grishin, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Moscow Gorkom. On behalf of the capital's working people, he expressed heartfelt gratitude to the party Central Committee and to Comrade Brezhnev for their high assessment of the Muscovites labor and of their contribution to fulfilling the 1978 plan.

GRISHIN, DEMICHEV ATTEND ARMENIAN POET'S ANNIVERSARY

LD202204Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2050 GMT 20 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Our country's people are widely marking the 80th anniversary of the birth of the outstanding Soviet Armenian poet, (Ysygishe Cherenze). A solemn soiree was held in Moscow today to mark this notable event. Present were Comrades Grishin, Demichev, Demirchyan, first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party, and other republican leaders, culture and scientific dignitaries.

PROSECUTION SERVICE COLLEGIUM DISCUSSES CRIME, PUNISHMENT

LD201443Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Feb 78 Morning Edition p 2 LD

[Unattributed Report: "On Guard Over Legality"]

[Text] An enlarged session of the Collegium of the USSR Procuracy was held 14 February with the participation of union republic, ASSR, kray and oblast prosecutors..

The Collegium discussed a report by R.A. Rudenko, USSR prosecutor general, on the work results of procuracy organs in 1977 and on the tasks of further strengthening socialist legality and law and order in the light of the new USSR Constitution, the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee May, October and December (1977) plenums, and the points and conclusions contained in the reports and speeches of Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Special attention was devoted to the need to further raise the level and effectiveness of procuracy supervision of the exact and uniform execution of the laws, to implement measures aimed at the struggle against embezzlement of state and public property, manifestations of mismanagement, extravagance, deception of the state and parochialism and other violations of state discipline and also to insure strict observance of citizens constitutional rights and interests, which are safeguarded by the law.

It was emphasized that procuracy organs must constantly improve work on the prevention, discovery and investigation of crimes and on the strict fulfillment of the law's demands on the inevitability of punishment for every crime, carry it out in coordination with other law protection organs and strengthen ties with the public.

Participating in the work of the Collegium were M.P. Georgadze, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; V.I. Gladyshev, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee Administrative Organs Section; L.N. Smirnov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Court; V.I. Terebilov, USSR minister of justice; executives of the CPSU Central Committee apparatus, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Council of Ministers, leading workers of the USSR and RSFSR procuracies, jurist-scientists and press representatives.

CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE APPROVES FERTILIZER INDUSTRY PLEDGES

LD161023Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Feb 78 p 1 LD

[Unattributed report: "In the CPSU Central Committee: On the Initiative of the Collectives of Construction, Installation and Planning Organizations and Enterprises Producing Mineral Fertilizers and Chemical Equipment in Launching Socialist Competition in 1978 to Accelerate the Commissioning and Startup of Capacities in the Mineral Fertilizer Industry and Chemical Machine Building and for Production of Above-Plan Output"]

[Text] In response to the letter from the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU and the Komsomol Central Committee appealing to all working people of our country to make 1978 a year of shock labor and to secure the fulfillment and overfulfillment of plans, the collectives of the Apatitstroy Trust of the USSR Ministry of Construction of Heavy Industry Enterprises; the Sumkhimstroy, Sumkhimmashstroy and No 3 Silogorsk Trusts of the USSR Ministry of Industrial Construction; the Samarkandstroy Construction and Installation Production Association and the Charzhoukhimstroy Trust of the USSR Ministry of Construction; the Kuybyshevgidrostroy Administration of the USSR Ministry of Power and Electrification; organizations and enterprises of the USSR Ministry of Installation and Special Construction Work; the Giprokhim and Giap planning institutes, Apatit, Sumy Khimprom, and Beloruskaliy production associations, Samarkhand and Chardzhou superphosphate plants, and Tolyatti nitrogen plant of the Ministry of the Chemical Industry; the Uralsk, Czerzhinsk, Ruzayevskiy and Uzbekskiy plants and the Sumy M.V. Frunze machine building production association of the Ministry of Chemical and Petroleum Machine Building, taking into account the exceptionally important national economic significance of the accelerated development of the mineral fertilizer industry, have launched an initiative--to mount comprehensive socialist competition in accordance with the "workers' relay" principle for the ahead-of-schedule commissioning and startup of production capacities in the mineral fertilizer industry and also of chemical machine building enterprises supplying equipment for them and for the output of above-plan production on this basis.

The CPSU Central Committee has approved the comprehensive socialist pledges for the ahead-of-schedule and prompt commissioning and startup of new production capacities and for the output of above-plan production on this basis which have been adopted by the collectives of the construction and installation organizations of the USSR Ministry of Construction of Heavy Industry Enterprises, the USSR Ministry of Industrial Construction, the USSR Ministry of Construction, the USSR Ministry of Installation and Special Construction Work and the enterprises and planning organizations of the Ministry of the Chemical Industry and Ministry of Chemical and Petroleum Machine Building engaged in building capacities for the production of mineral fertilizers and chemical equipment.

The central committees of union republic communist parties, kraykoms and obkoms and the relevant trade union central committees are recommended to carry out the necessary organizational and mass political work on mounting socialist competition in accordance with the "workers' relay" principle at all mineral fertilizer [production capacity] construction sites and enterprises producing production equipment and components for them. Attention is to be focused on the maximum use of internal reserves, the introduction of advanced experience of production organization and labor organization, especially the team contract method and the improvement of qualitative indicators of economic activity at construction sites and enterprises.

The USSR Gosplan, USSR Gossnab and appropriate ministries and departments are instructed to implement specific measures which will insure the fulfillment by collectives of socialist pledges and the targets set for 1978 for building up the capacities of the mineral fertilizer industry and of chemical machine building, and for the above-plan production of mineral fertilizers.

LATVIAN OFFICIALS NOTES 1977 PLAN FULFILLMENT SHORTCOMINGS

LD170943Y Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA in Russian 9 Feb 78 p 3 LD

[Text] LATINFORM--A session of the Latvian Council of Ministers took place on 8 February, at which the results of the fulfillment of the state plan for the development of the national economy and the republic's state budget for 1977 were examined.

The session noted that, as a result of the implementation of measures to implement the historic decisions of the 25th CPSU congress, the socialist competition of the Latvian SSR working people, which was mounted on a wide scale to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, and the high political and labor enthusiasm generated by the nationwide discussion and adoption of the new USSR Constitution, our republic achieved further successes in economic and social development in 1977--the second year of the 10th 5-year plan.

The increase in industrial output in 1977 was 4 percent as against the 3.3 percent scheduled in the annual plan. The plan for the sale of output was fulfilled by all ministries and departments with the exception of the Latvian Ministry of the Construction Materials Industry. Despite difficult weather conditions, the republic's kolkhozes and sovkhozes increased the output of livestock-raising produce, factory sugar beet, vegetables and fodder root crops, in comparison with 1976. The plans for the sale to the state of grain, livestock-raising produce, potatoes, sugar beet and vegetables were overfulfilled.

The social program is being successfully implemented. Over 1977 real per capita incomes increased 2.5 percent and retail commodity turnover increased 4 percent. From all sources of finance, dwellings providing a total living area of 1,125,000 square meters were built. The plan for commissioning general educational schools, hospitals and polyclinics was fulfilled.

At the same time it was pointed out at the Latvian Council of Ministers session that there were shortcomings in the work of the republic's industry, transportation and agriculture and also in capital construction. Certain ministries, departments, ispolkoms, enterprises and organizations allowed lags to occur in the fulfillment of a number of plan targets. There were shortcomings in work on raising social production efficiency. The plans for the production of synthetic resins, wood fiberboard, plywood, matches, cement, walling materials, slate, knitwear and a number of other goods were not fulfilled. The Latvian Ministry of Light Industry, the Latvian Ministry of the Food Industry and certain enterprises under USSR jurisdiction failed to fulfill the plans for the production of a number of consumer goods.

Despite the considerable increase in the production and sale to the state of agricultural produce over the republic as a whole, eight rayons--Balvskiy, Yekabpilsskiy, Kuldigskiy, Ludzenskiy, Preylskiy, Talsinskiy, Tukumskiy and Tsesisskiy--did not fulfill the plans for the sale to the state of livestock and poultry.

The capital construction plan was not fulfilled.

Though the profits plan was overfulfilled by the republic's industry as a whole, a number of enterprises failed to insure the fulfillment of the set profit plan as a result of substanti shortcomings in production organization and labor organization, unproductive expenditure and losses due to shoddy work, which led to the overall underfulfillment of the profits plan by certain individual ministries.

The Latvian Council of Ministers ordered ministers, heads of departments, enterprises and organizations, and Rayispolkoms and Gorispolkoms (under the Republic's jurisdiction) to analyze carefully the results of the economic activity of the associations, enterprises, construction sites and organizations under their jurisdiction and to devise and implement measures for eliminating the existing shortcomings and for enhancing the standard of all work, being guided by the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee December (1977) Plenum, the propositions and conclusions expounded by Comrade L. I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, in his speech at the plenum, and by the tasks set in the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, AUCCTU and Komsomol Central Committee letter to Party, Soviet, economic, trade union and Komsomol organizations and to the working people of the Soviet Union "On Mounting Socialist Competition for the Fulfillment and Overfulfillment of the 1978 Plan and on Stepping up the Struggle to Enhance Production Efficiency and Work Quality."

It was particularly stressed at the session that the necessary steps ought to be taken for the fuller utilization of production capacities, for eliminating stoppages of equipment, for the rational use of physical, labor and financial resources, and for raising the quality of production; specific measures are to be devised for enhancing labor productivity growth rates, which will insure a substantial increase in the significance of this factor in raising the volume of output and will also insure the release of manpower at existing enterprises.

One of the most important national economic tasks lies in insuring comprehensive preparation for and organized performance of spring field work, the proper tending of crops and the prompt delivery of tractors, trucks, agricultural machinery and spare parts, fuel and lubricants, mineral fertilizers, chemical pesticides and other material-technical resources allocated for agriculture.

Yu. Ya. Ruben, chairman of the Latvian Council of Ministers, addressed the session.

E. Ya. Aushkap, secretary of the Latvian CP Central Committee, participated in the work of the Latvian Council of Ministers session.

BRIEFS

SIBIR LEADS ARCTIC CONVOY--The atomic vessel Sibir is conducting a convoy of vessels to Yamal. A TASS correspondent reports: On the night of 19 February, the convoy entered the Kara Strait. Never in all the history of navigation has the strait been open for people at such a time. About 2 hours were needed to overcome the 33 km strait and while this was being done the power installations of the atomic breaker had to be switched on at great capacity for the first time. The speed did not exceed 2 knots on certain sections of the journey. The rope broke on two occasions but nevertheless the sailors met the dawn in the Kara Sea. The first baptism of battle, which has demonstrated the reliability of the new atomic vessel, has been taken. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 19 Feb 78 LD]

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

MOSCOW AGRICULTURAL REPORTS FOR 14, 16-19 FEB

LD200658 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow Domestic Service at 1900 GMT on 14 February reports that a routine meeting of the All-Union Operation Staff was held in Moscow on 14 February to discuss the timely preparation of agricultural equipment for spring fieldwork. The meeting noted that tempo of preparatory work this year is higher than that of last year. By 1 February in the entire country 84 percent of the tractors, 89 percent of the seeding machines, 92 percent of the plows and about 92 percent of the cultivators had been prepared for spring fieldwork.

The same broadcast also notes that in Krasnodarskiy Kray the top dressing of grain crops has been carried out on over 1 million hectares.

Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1100 GMT on 16 February reports that, according to the head of the Agricultural Department of Brestskaya Oblast, that oblast is the first in Belorussia to begin spring work, that farms are ready for work and that the oblast has high-quality seeds.

Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1330 GMT on the same day reports that sowing has begun so far in only the dry, sandy soil of the Checheno-Ingushskaya steppe. Temperatures there have reached up to 20 degrees and farmers are trying to use moisture as quickly as they can. If this weather continues, the sowing will soon be able to begin in the Kuban area.

Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 2200 GMT on 16 February notes that preparations of agricultural equipment for spring fieldwork are being completed at Latvia's kolkhozes and sovkhozes. Some 30,000 tractors have been repaired which represents 91 percent of the entire tractor fleet.

Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0500 GMT on 17 February reports that 20,000 tractors and as many soil cultivating and drilling machines are ready for work in Gorkiy Oblast. By 1 March all the machines and implements will be ready for work.

Moscow Domestic Service at 1400 GMT on 18 February reports that spring fieldwork has begun on the fruit plantations in Armenia. Favorable weather in the northeastern areas of Armenia and in the Ararat valley have made it possible to begin work earlier than usual. The pruning of apricot and apple trees is now in progress. Work has begun at sovkhozes and kolkhozes for application of fertilizer. The radio cites an official from the Armenian Ministry of Agriculture who believes that fruit and grape harvests this year will be considerably higher than the harvests of last year. Areas of fruit orchards and vineyards in Armenia will increase by more than 2,000 hectares this year.

Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0500 GMT on 19 February reports that Odesskaya Oblast farmers have completed the preparation of plows, drills and cultivators. Tractor and combine repairs are proceeding at high rates. The preparation of machinery for spring has been completed by the mechanizers of Crimea, Rovno, Cherkasskaya and the Trans-Carpathian Oblasts.

BRIEFS

RESETTLERS IN PRIMORYE--The first 94 families of resettlers from Krasnodar Kray have arrived in Khankayskiy Rayon in Primorye and have been assigned to the Turskiy Rog. Novokachalinsk, Avangard, Ilinsk, Novoselishche, Melgunovskiy and other sovkhozes. [Vladivostok Domestic Service in Russian 0935 GMT 16 Feb 78 OW]

SALYUT-SOYUZ ORBITAL COMPLEX CONTINUES MISSION

Medical Experiments

LD171214Y Moscow TASS in English 1151 GMT 17 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 17, TASS--A TASS special correspondent reports from mission control centre:

The crew of the Salyut-6--Soyuz-27 orbital complex conducts mostly medical experiments today.

Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko conducted a new cycle of comprehensive electrocardiographic studies of the cardiovascular system. The cosmonauts will also carry out studies of the system of blood circulation with a dosed physical load on the veleorgometer. The programme includes an experiment to study the dynamics of change in the composition of the gas environment inside the station in conditions of prolonged space flight.

The second technological experiement of the "splav" plant was started on board the "Salyut-6"--"Soyuz-27" complex. The following pairs were chosen for research: aluminum-tungsten and molybdenum-callium--as well as a semi-conductor material. Earlier, experiments were carried out on the "splav" plant with the compounds: copper-indium, alaonum-magnesium and indium antimonide.

Special equipment "svezhest" (freshness) was included into the life-sustaining system of the station. It is designed to ionize the atmosphere inside the orbital complex for ensuring a favourable effect on the organism of the cosmonauts.

According to the data of telemetric information, the on-board systems of the outer space complex are functioning normally. Romanenko and Grechko feel well.

Work Productivity Increases

LD181140Y Moscow TASS in English 1055 GMT 18 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 18, TASS--TASS special correspondent reports from the flight control centre:

When journalists ask about the work of the cosmonauts in space, the supervisers of the "Salyut-6" flight invariably answer that everything proceeds according to programme. Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko already made 1,100 orbits in space.

On Friday Evening, when they were concluding the 69th day orbit, a conference on the results of the week was held on the ground. The conclusion was rather unexpected: The productivity of the crew in conducting scientific experiments increased by at least ten percent.

This phenomenon is, prehaps, not quite the same as sportsmen getting the second wind. But the psychological motivation in both cases is approximately the same. When embarking upon prolonged work, a person sets himself a programme of expending energy. The same increase in productivity was observed during the 63-day flight of Petr Klimuk and Vitaliy Sevastyanov after they had spent four weeks in space. Georgiy Grechko himself knows a lot about engineering psychology. During his first flight onboard the "Salyut-4" together with Vladimir Gubarev, he surprised specialists with the burgeoning of productivity of labour after four weeks in orbit. He then excellently repaired a solar telescope and carried out a series of unplanned technical experiments.

Cosmonauts in Good Health

LD181144Y Moscow TASS in English 1125 GMT 18 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Flight control center, February 18, TASS--Soviet Cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko have been working for ten weeks in the near-earth orbit now.

The working day of the crew on the "Salyut-6"--"Soyuz-27" outer space research complex began at eight o'clock in the morning. After breakfast and medical check-up, the cosmonauts are working according to the preset programme including today physical exercises, hydrotherapeutic procedures, work with on-board documents and preparation of scientific equipment for the forthcoming research work.

Biological experiments are continuing on-board the orbital complex with drosophilas, micro-organisms and tissue culture. The cosmonauts are observing the course of the experiments and maintaining the required temperature conditions in thermostats with biological objects.

According to the results of the medical checkups carried out yesterday, the cosmonauts are in good health. The pulse rate of Yuriy Romanenko is 65 and Georgiy Grechko--68. Arterial pressure is 130 by 65 and 120 by 60 millimeters of the mercury column respectively.

According to the data of telemetric information, th on-board systems of the "Salyut-6"--"Soyuz-27" outer space complex are functioning normally. Research work in the near-earth orbit is continuing.

Smelting Experiment

LD191305Y Moscow TASS in English 1345 GMT 19 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 19, TASS--TASS correspondents reports from the flight control center:

Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko continue working on board the orbital research complex Salyut-6--Soyuz-27.

The second experiment on the unit for smelting was concluded yesterday. Compounds of the studied pairs of substances: aluminium and tungsten, gallium and molybdenum, as well as a semi-conductor material were obtained in weightlessness. Ampoules with these materials will be brought to the ground to study the peculiarities of inter-action of solid and liquid metals in weightlessness, which is of importance for understanding the processes of welding, soldering and creation of new composition materials of practical value.

Today's working day of Romanenko and Grechko proceeds in accordance with the schedule. The cosmonauts together with specialists from the flight control centre work on technical documents and continue preparing scientific equipment for conducting planned research and experiments.

According to reports of the crew and the data of telemetric information, the onboard systems of the orbital complex Salyut-6--Soyuz-27 function normally. The cosmonauts are in in good health and feel well.

20 Feb Report

LD201146Y Moscow TASS in English 1138 GMT 20 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 20, TASS--A TASS correspondent reports from the flight control centre: The crew of the orbital scientific-research "Salyut-6"--"Soyuz-27" complex continue implementing the programme of explorations and experiments in outer space.

Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko began their working day today at 8.00. After morning procedures and breakfast, the cosmonauts are engaged in prophylactic work aboard the complex. They are testing scientific equipment, working with technical documentation. During the day the crew of the orbital complex have been engaged in visual observation and photography of separate parts of the earth's surface and the world ocean.

The manned "Salyut-6"--"Soyuz-27" complex continues its flight in the orbit with the following parameters:

The maximum distance from the surface of the earth--347 kilometres, the minimum distance-332 kilometres, the period of revolution--91.1 minutes, the inclination of the orbit--51.6 degrees.

According to reports received from the crew and data of telemetric information, the systems aboard the orbital "Salyut-6"--"Soyuz-27" complex are functioning normally. The cosmonauts feel well.

Soviet-French Experiment

LD202112Y Moscow TASS in English 2024 GMT 20 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 20, TASS--The Soviet-French complex of thermostatic equipment has successfully passed the test in terrestrial and space conditions, the newspaper IZVESTIYA writes today. These instruments are simple and reliable.

Biological cultures prepared by Soviet and French biologists were "put asleep" in an ordinary refrigerator and placed within a special insert into the Soviet semiconductor instrument "Termokont-2".

On the eve of the launching of the spaceship "Soyuz-27", "Termokont-2" handed over its biological "load" to another Soviet instrument, the thermostat "Bioterm-8". Its task was to maintain the same temperature of plus eight degrees centigrade during the launching of "Soyuz-27" and its stay in orbit right till docking with the orbital station "Salyut-6".

"Bioterm-8" operated impeccably during this period and after docking the biological insert was placed into the French semiconductor thermostat "Cytos". There the cultures of cells were "awakened" by warmth and the experiment to study the influence of space flight factors on the cellular division of micro-organisms was started at the strictly controlled temperature of plus 25 degrees centigrade.

COSMOS-990 LAUNCHED 17 FEB FOR SPACE EXPLORATION

LD180842Y Moscow TASS in English 0836 GMT 18 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 18, TASS--On Friday, the Soviet Union launched the artificial earth satellite "Cosmos-990". The satellite carries scientific equipment meant for continuation of space exploration. The sputnik was put into an orbit with the following parameters: The initial period of revolution 101 minutes, the maximum distance from the earth's surface (apogee) 824 kilometeres, the minimum distance from the earth's surface (perigee) 783 kilometers, inclination of the orbit 74 degrees.

Besides scientific equipment, the satellite carries a radio system for precise measurement of the elements of the orbit, a radiotelemetric system for relaying to the ground the data on the work of instruments and scientific equipment. The equipment on board the Sputnik functions normally. The coordination computing centre processes incoming information.

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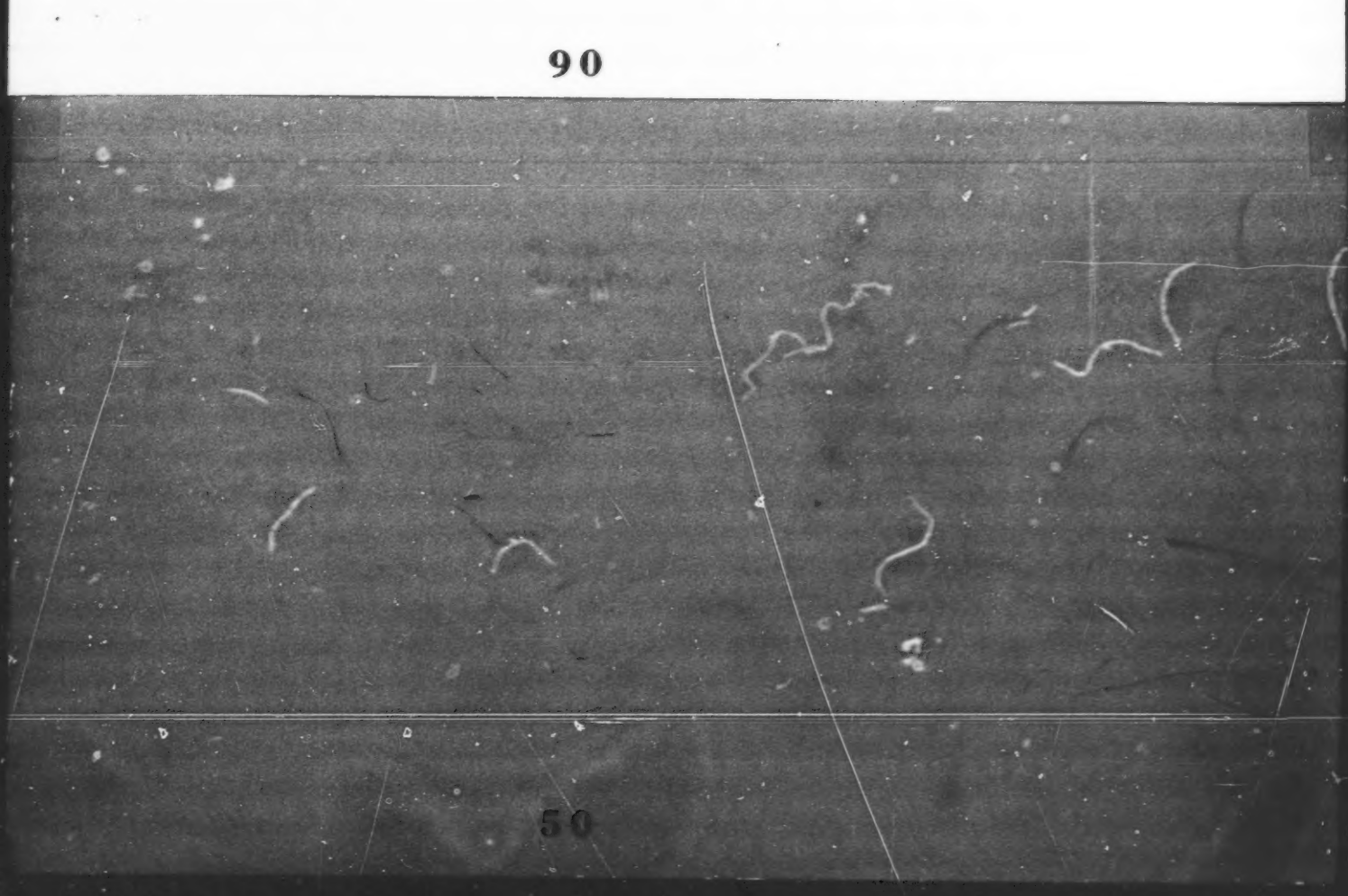
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